

THE LOGGER'S BARK

a magazine



Radio Club of Tacoma



New!

Wouxun KG-935

Tri-Band with 1.25m!

In this issue:

- **New! Wouxun KG-935 HT with 220 MHz!** [p. 71](#)
- **History: NK Hermit Kingdom DXpeditions** [p. 45](#)
- **LampTenna 3: SSB in CQ WPX 2025!** [p. 93](#)
- **Numbers Stations: Still a Thing? YES!!** [p. 37](#)
- **FT8—How Does it Really Work? Is it Evil?** [p. 84](#)
- **Japanese WOODEN CubeSat Space Satellite!** [p. 78](#)
- **Hands-on RTL-SDR V4 dongle—My Review!** [p. 21](#)
- **2025 W7DK Field Day Plans coming together** [p. 43](#)

Cover:

Neighboring farm
Cow "Charcoal"
With her Heil
Headset
Monitoring
Cattle Futures on
The Chicago
Mercantile
Exchange
Photo Dave
W7UUU

www.W7DK.org

Radio Club of Tacoma
1249 South Washington Street
Tacoma, WA 98405
253-759-2040

W7DK

Open House every Saturday
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Last Saturday every month is
Swapmeet Day

Radio Club of Tacoma

Founded 1916

JOIN NOW!

W7DK 2025 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE LEADERS

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Planning: Manny AD7MA
POTA: BJ KO7T
General Meeting: Dave W7UUU
Bark layout & Editor: Dave W7UUU
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CONTENTS**QUICK LINKS TO THE BIG STUFF!**

PAGE 3	PRESIDENT'S CORNER
XX	FROM THE DESK OF THE VP
PAGE 4	THE SECRETARY'S REPORT
PAGE 8	FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK
XX	PLANNING COMMITTEE
XX	MEMBERSHIP REPORT
PAGE 9	HAM RADIO WORLD NEWS
PAGE 10	ARRL NEWS & VIEWS
PAGE 13	LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
PAGE 103	BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
PAGE 109	GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

xx=nothing submitted

**But don't stop there! Each issue is 50 or
more pages of fun and cool stuff to explore!**
Scroll on!

HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?loggersbark@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Monthly ruminations from our President

Adam
Barbera
W2NCC

AMATEUR TV BROADCASTING FROM THE SHACK

There are many facets to the ham radio hobby. It's so much more than dots and dashes. For instance, did you know some ham operators can send TV signals? DATV stands for Digital Amateur Television. It's a way for hams to send and receive TV signals using digital technology.

Legacy TV uses big towers to transmit signals, while DATV signals can be sent using common 2m, 70cm, and 23cm amateur antennas along with special equipment. Just like commercial video technology, DATV turns pictures and sound into digital signals. These signals are sent over radio waves or the internet. Other ham operators can pick up these signals with the right equipment and watch the broadcasted programs.

To get started with DATV, you'll need a transmitter, receiver, antenna, and a computer or TV to view the video. Only licensed ham radio operators can legally transmit DATV signals. However, with the right receiver, anyone can pick up signals in the area. Some DATV broadcasts are also shared online so others can watch. DATV is a fun way for people to share videos or livestream from their shack.

Learning about and setting up something new like DATV can be tricky because it requires special equipment. Fortunately, there are online groups that can help beginners get started. Also, the Radio Club is planning a DATV project. Wade [W7ITL](#), and Ron

[KD7QKU](#), are leading the effort. Over the next few months, the plan is to install a DATV system on the RF Lab bench in the Lou Room. The goal is to test the design and confirm it works correctly. Later, the antennas and DATV equipment will be moved to a more permanent location in the clubhouse.

DATV is a cool part of ham radio that doesn't get a lot of attention. It mixes old-school radio with modern digital video. If you like technology, DATV might be worth exploring.

-Adam, [W2NCC](#)



This is the state-of-the art DATV studio belonging to Wade [W7ITL](#). If you right-click the image and "open in new tab" it will take you to the [WW7ATS YouTube page](#)—the Western Washington Amateur Television Society. There you will find a number of highly-detailed videos of DATV in operation.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X



FIELD DAY 2025—coming soon!

TO QUOTE THE ARRL:

*Field Day is ham radio's open house. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933. ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth week-end of June of each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups, or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, **FUN!***

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

*The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions. **UNQUOTE.***

THE TEXT QUOTED AT LEFT WAS FROM THE ARRL to set the background for W7DK's participation in this year's ARRL Field day. It was used last year but the message still holds true this year and every year.

The club has participated in Field Day every year in recent history and will continue to do it every year in the foreseeable future.

Let's define some things: Field Day is *not* a contest even though it does have *some aspects* of a contest. Yes, there are points accumulated, and yes, the log is returned to the sponsor, the ARRL and scores are reported. But the resemblance stops there.

Field day is also not an emergency communications event either even though it also contains some of the elements of an emergency event: stations are set up next to a hospital (potentially) to enable health and welfare messages to be sent, while running on independent power. But again, the resemblance to Em-Comm ends there. Field day is a *lot* of things!

This year, 2025, what does the Radio Club of Tacoma expect to do on the air?

This year, RCT will do field day to get people onto the HF frequencies so that they can experience all that HF offers to us all. This is not pointed at any particular group either. There are many hams of all license classes who have, for example, never operated any HF operation at all.

Field day gives us all a chance to try things that we've never done before. RCT can and will provide all the necessary gear, with a station leader who will guide you through the experience with no muss, fuss or judgments on anyone's ability.

We have taken folks with little to no experience be-



SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X



fore, given them a chance to make a contact or two, three, or many more as they wished, and everyone involved has a good time.

This year, we are inviting anyone who wants to try getting on the air to just come over to the [Western State Hospital](#) Field Day site and get on the air. No one will be turned away or pressured to make contacts “contest style”. The club is not doing FD as a contest and haven’t done so for quite a long time.

This year we’re thinking about putting up a 6 Meter station for the dedicated VHF types.... just to see what happens. Six meters can be amazing in summertime, and we have the equipment necessary to make that happen.

So, don’t be shy, come on down to share the fun!

We guarantee that nobody will be pressured into doing anything that is outside of their interests. But on the other hand, if you’ve ever wondered what the fuss on Field Day is all about, come on down.

Lastly... W7DK never scrimps on the picnic aspect of this event either!

Chef Paul W7PFU and his helpers do a great job making sure that no one will pass out from hunger! On the Friday before the event Paul usually has some picnic-

type foods in the mess tent and on Saturday evening, he prepares an awesome dinner, followed the next morning by the Loggers Breakfast with all kinds of good stuff to chow down on!

Elsewhere in this edition of the Loggers Bark you will find a nice article laying out the site staging from field day head honcho Mike Drorbaugh **W7MKE**.

What I want to do is to encourage everyone even remotely interested in Field Day to come out to the site and give it a try. Who knows? You might even enjoy the experience!

-73 Gary **WG7X**, Secretary, Radio Club of Tacoma

Below: This photo shows the big tent from two years ago. As you can see, there are plenty of people to talk to and still lots of empty stations. So, come on down!



SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X



MAY 2025 SECRETARY'S REPORT

For this month's Secretary's report, I'd first like to show everyone a couple of pictures. You may remember from last month's message that I had recently gone automatic and (mostly) all knobs. Unfortunately, I had neglected to include a picture of the new! Improved! **WG7X** station.

really made me think about what we can do with our future ham radio purchases in view of recent events here in the US of A with regards to market trends due to USA policies.

Now, in all actuality, these recent events will have little to no effects on our small niche hobby, but sometimes it pays to support local (USA) manufacturers.



Station of Gary **WG7X**

Here it is and as you can see there are very few knobs there.

The station is almost all made in the USA, only the transceiver is made in Japan. The main reason that I'm describing the station in more detail is that the subject of what to do in the future about ham gear

So from left to right are a Mercury LUX from KM3KM Electronics, in Miami FL, then an Icom IC-7610 from Icom Japan. On top of the Icom is an LD100A wattmeter made by Telepost Inc. in Michigan, USA. After that is a HF-AUTO tuner made by Palstar in OH, USA.

I did look pretty hard at the Elecraft K4 and the Flex 8600. Both or either of them would have worked, but the cost was way out of my reach.

Just one of the radios

alone would have been almost as much as I spent on the whole station! So, yes, unfortunately, that made them also-ran's for radio **WG7X**.

By comparison, on the next page is a picture of the Flex station at the Radio Club of Tacoma, W7DK. Only one knob in the station, and we had to buy that one! It's

SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X



a little too futuristic for this old(er) ham. The new hams (and some of the older ones) love this stuff, but it's not for me. We acquired all the stuff from a club member who passed (thank you PJ **N7PH** (SK)). His estate gifted us with PJ's entire ham radio estate.

Below, left to right, Flex 6600, then a Mercury III's and a Mercury ATS tuner. This setup got me started on the almost no knobs station. It is a favorite station for the club members.

Directly behind the Flex station, we have an

star. But... The LUX will do full legal and the LA-1K will only do, as the name implies, 1 KW. That's usually enough and the LA-1K is EXTREMELY well built as is the HF-AUTO. We're both, me and W7DK, going to get many years of trouble-free service out of these stations!

Last note: don't forget to get ready for Field Day, which is coming up soon. June 28 – 29, 2025 will be here before you know it, so get ready! W7DK will be at the same location on the grounds of [Western State Hospital](#) where we have been many times in

the past. This year, we're going to change the antennas a bit though, with mono-band Yagis on 10, 15, and 20 and possibly 6 meters. Regular dipoles will be hoisted in the trees for 40 & 80 meters.

Stay tuned for updates, because things might change. Contact Mike **W7MKE** if you want a specific band to get on.

So, for now, that's all I have! 73 until next month! - Gary **WG7X**



RCT W7DK Flex 6600 Station

Icom IC-7610, the HF AUTO and LA-1K amp. Almost exactly the same as my station. In retrospect, if I had been able to test the LA-1K amp before buying the Mercury LUX, I probably would have bought the Pal-





SINCE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FIELD DAY A LOT THIS MONTH, and of course into the month of June, I thought it would be fun to solicit from readers, "How you plan to do Field Day 2025". Are you going to head out to a field with your local club? That's a huge part of the spirit and history of the event—clubs or just groups of like-minded hams getting together on the last weekend in June to lug their gear into a field, put up temporary antennas, set up generators or other sources of "off the grid" power, then set about testing your skills on the air.

Or is it something you prefer to do on your own, perhaps combined with a POTA or family camping event?

I've never personally been much into Field Day except to operate from home as a 1D (plain old mains-powered home station) or more in recent years, to spend some time as a 1E now that my shack has an integrated 7500 watt generator that can power the whole shack at the flip of a few switches. But I never really had the opportunity to join a group as a young ham—even back in my early days with the Radio Club of Tacoma in the late 1970s. At that moment in history, the club was not very friendly to teenagers so I didn't get invited to too many things. So I never really got

the "club spirit for Field Day" thing going like so many others. Fortunately, the RCT today is an awesome "open arms" welcoming organization where all are welcome—including teenagers!

How about Field Day disasters—did you ever have any?

Perhaps when a crazy storm dropped unexpectedly and everyone got rained out. Or the primary rig smoked from a faulty generator.

I would love to hear your stories of "how you like to do Field Day" and also "Field Day Disasters". I will pick

the best stories sent in, and run them in the June issue of *The Bark*. **But they must be received**

before the deadline of the fifteenth of May!! I

can't publish any submissions received after that date. Just send them to the email address below. Try to limit the length to *no more than 100 words*. And of course,



Four screens of Barkiness Barking in the UUU office

I reserve the right to edit for brevity. I look forward to seeing the great stories of not only your successes and great FD adventures but also your 2025 plans, past mishaps, strangest things that ever happened, or downright disasters. Feel free to include a good-quality photo if it helps explain the story. **I will allot up to 3-pages of such stories, depending on what is received. Send 'em in!!**

-73 Dave W7UUU

HAM RADIO WORLD NEWS

Amateur radio events from *around the world*



Web

Extended Hours for Voice of America Museum During Hamvention

It's highly recommend to take the time to stop by the museum on the way into Hamvention. Wonderful collections and exhibits, and great insight into VOA history.

The following press release is from the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting:

The National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in conjunction with the West Chester Amateur Radio Association announce expanded hours for the museum during the 2025 Hamvention.

We will be open for the following;

Thursday May 15th from 12:00 to 9:00 PM

Friday May 16th from 12:00 to 9:00 PM

Saturday May 17th from 12:00 to 9:00 PM

Sunday May 18th from 12:00 to 5:00 PM

Admission is \$10.00 at the door. Our Amateur Radio station WC8VOA will be on the air to operate. The museum is a short drive from Hamvention down either Interstate 75 or Route 42 from Xenia. GPS use Crosley Blvd. New exhibits include a dedicated room for vintage Amateur Radio and shortwave equipment. See the first transmitter for the VOA from 1942. Amateur Radio shack with state of the art equipment from Yaesu, Icom and Elecraft. Docents and ARS operators will be available to enhance your visit to the museum. The museum has recently undergone a major renovation with many upgrades to our galleries including a newly paved parking lot.

For further information, visit VOAmuseum.org or WC8VOA.org. You can also find us on Facebook at National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting. Regular hours Saturdays & Sundays 1:00 until 4:00 PM

We are located at 8070 Tylersville Road, West Chester, Ohio 45069. Phone at 513-777-0027.

RAC VOTES TO CANCEL ATTENDANCE AT HAMVENTION

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), the national association for amateur radio in Canada, has voted to cancel plans to attend and operate a booth at Hamvention in Ohio. The organization cited heightened tensions between Canada and the United States as contributing to its decision.

"The relationship between Canada and the United States has become increasingly strained due to recent trade disputes and tariffs imposed by the US government. Adding to these challenges, controversial remarks from US leaders, including suggestions of Canada becoming the 51st state, have heightened concerns about Canadian sovereignty".

RAC hopes to return to Hamvention in the future.



**Radio Amateurs
of
du Canada**

ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

ARRL FILES COMMENTS RESPONDING TO FCC REQUEST FOR INPUT

[ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) filed comments [PDF] with the Federal Communications Commission in response to its request for public input on alleviating unnecessary regulatory burdens by deleting or modifying rules, [in the Matter of Delete, Delete, Delete](#). Implementing ARRL's suggestions would promote and protect the art, science, and enjoyment of amateur radio, and enhance the development of the next generation of radio amateurs.

In response to ARRL's request, over 200 members submitted suggestions that were reviewed when considering what rules should be deleted or modified. ARRL will continue to engage with members and advocate for the Amateur Radio Service.

In its filing, ARRL asked the FCC to delete or amend the following rules:

Delete the LF and VHF/UHF Symbol (Baud) Rate and Bandwidth Limitations

ARRL supports the deletion of these restrictions as proposed by the Commission in late 2023. Doing so would enhance Amateur experimentation with digital technologies.

Update and Modernize Entry Level Technician Class License Privileges

ARRL reiterated its earlier proposal for extending additional limited privileges for Technician class operators. Adopting its proposal would provide new licensees an introductory window to HF data and phone communications that are at the core of the Amateur Radio experience and serve to incentivize the next generation of technical leaders just as Novice CW HF privileges did for earlier generations of operators.

Modernize 80/75 Meter Subband Divisions

ARRL requested action on an earlier proposal that would make more efficient and intense use of the 80/75 meter band. Changes in technology and modes since band usage was last addressed have resulted in overcrowding in one band segment that would be alleviated by adoption of ARRL's proposal.

Delete and Replace Obsolete Digital Code Limitations.

ARRL also asked the FCC remove provisions that refer to digital codes that today are obsolete and permit Radio Amateurs to experiment freely with new digital codes, so long as such codes are publicly documented and decodable over the air.



ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

Implement Changes to Third Party Rules Adopted Internationally at WRC-03

Although the United States fully supported changes to the ITU Radio Regulations in 2003 that removed a treaty requirement for third-party messages, there is no record of this change having been considered and the FCC's rules were never conformed to the new provision. Being the only nation known to continue to require a formal treaty for such purposes has resulted in no new such treaties for since the treaty changed more than two decades ago. Thus ARRL asked the FCC to Implement rules that are consistent with those internationally agreed to align with the rest of the world.

Delete Amplifier Drive Limitation

ARRL requested that the Commission act favorably on a pending proposal to remove limits HF amplifier gain that add to Amateur equipment cost and impede use of new efficient amplifier technology.

Remove Non-current Personal Information in Amateur ULS records

ARRL requested that the FCC complete a rule making in which it proposed that only current licensee information to be visible in the public (ULS) database. Right now, if an amateur changes their address to a Post Office Box to shield their home address, the previous address remains visible. ARRL advocates for protecting the privacy of radio amateurs.

Delete Obsolete Identification Requirement for Special Call Signs

Users of special event call signs are required to identify with the FCC-issued responsible call sign at least once each hour. This can be confusing, especially on data and CW modes. ARRL proposed reliance on the web-based database that clearly identifies each special event call sign and authorized period of use.

Delete Obsolete Paper License Replacement Provision

The FCC no longer mails physical copies of amateur radio licenses, so ARRL suggested deleting the rule that provides for sending paper replacements as obsolete.

The FCC notice [PDF] generated a lot of interest among radio amateurs, with hundreds of Amateurs submitting comments directly to the FCC as well as responding to ARRL's request for suggestions.

The FCC deadline for filing reply comments is April 28, 2025.

It is hoped that the Commission will incorporate worthy suggestions in a future Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) later this year. At that time there will be a new opportunity for public comment on the specific rules that the Commission proposes to delete or modify.

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ARRL NEWS & VIEWS



W1AW

ARRL VIDEOS DOCUMENT NEXT GENERATION DXING PROGRAM AT INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION

The [76th International DX Convention](#) was held in Visalia, California, from April 11 – 13. A major focus of this year's conference was the future of DXpeditions. A full day of informative presentations was focused on the Next Generation DXing Program.

ARRL was there to engage with members and document the sessions on video. The first of many [NextGen DX presentations is available now on the ARRLHQ YouTube channel](#). The playlist will be built out in coming days with the rest of the material.

Session 1 focuses on mission planning. The forum is moderated by noted DXer Ned Stearns, [AA7A](#), who also serves as ARRL Vice Director for the Southwestern Division. The panel includes George Wallner, [AA7JV](#); Don Greenbaum, [N1DG](#), and ARRL Radiosport and Regulatory Affairs Manager Bart Jahnke, [W9JJ](#). Each of the four experts share their perspective on the current state of DXpeditions and what evolving technology and regulatory situations mean for the future.

Even if you never plan to go on a DXpedition, the information in these sessions will give you deep insight into what goes on into making one of these far-flung activations happen. The panelists hope that some may even be inspired to enter the world of operating from rare entities.



INTERESTING ARRL HAM RADIO OPEN HOUSE LOCATIONS

[ARRL Ham Radio Open Houses](#) are happening all over the western hemisphere, and more dates are being added each week. Throughout the entire month of April, radio clubs, schools, and even museums are opening their doors to help introduce the public to amateur radio. They will show off their ham radio stations, demonstrating the technology and innovation enjoyed by radio amateurs today.

Some of the open houses will take place on April 18, World Amateur Radio Day, which this year marks 100 years since the International Amateur Radio Union was founded in Paris, France.

There are some interesting sites hosting ARRL Ham Radio Open House events. The Vintage Radio and Communications Museum, W1VCM, in Windsor, Connecticut, will welcome guests to theirs on April 18. [The museum](#) is host to exhibits that show off the developments in communications through the decades, from the 1800s to the late 20th century. Many of the volunteers at the museum are active hams and are able to relay how foundational evolution of gear and technology was for the modern, digital, amateur radio landscape.

New England Sci-Tech in Natick, Massachusetts, W1STR, is also [hosting an open house](#) on April 18. This maker space workshop and science center engages young people with outreach programs and gets members of the public hands-on with many science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) projects. They have an active amateur radio club among all the excitement.

On the other end of North America, the Arctic Amateur Radio Experimenters, KL7EX, will be hosting an Open House in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Find a site near you, or list your club's ARRL Ham Radio Open House at www.arrl.org/Open-House.

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THE MAILBAG

LETTERS
To The Editor

W7UUU



From QRZ:

I really enjoyed the article on the TW-100F Spy Transceiver [[April Bark](#), page 36]. Such things have always interested me. The TW-100F is not inexpensive but they can be found for sale!

It should come with a dry vodka martini.

Jim **KI4KEA**
Gainesville, Florida

*I take it such a martini should be shaken, not stirred then?! -Dave **W7UUU***

From QRZ:

Hi Dave—as an early teenager I would listen with my Heathkit GR-64 SWL receiver and Longwire near Cleveland, Ohio. Mike **W2OY** [[April Bark](#), page 80] would go through his dissertation: “No VOX operators, no fast talkers, only 2-letter calls, Class-A operators only”.

The young hams would try to talk to Mike, but only once in a while—up until they started ‘fast talking’ and mention their modern gear! Oh, and don’t even try SSB... you would hear him rant and rave about that NEW MODE with “no carrier” to keep the S-meter from hanging up! I just wanted to thank you and your club for a great newsletter.

-73 Jeff **WA8SAJ**
Willoughby, Ohio

*Thanks so much for sharing your **W2OY** story and for the very kind comments.
73 my friend—Dave **W7UUU***

To the Editor,

Thanks again for the stickers! I took a tight shot of my main rigs, with some stickers added to an existing Radio Club of Tacoma members’ QSLs, along with some recent ATNO cards.

Thanks so much for the great *Logger’s Bark*!

73—Mike **KE9EX**
Arlington Heights, Illinois

*Thanks for sending that great photo, Mike! I see that you got one of my 2017 **K1T** Special Event station certificates, as well as my **W7P** “Rising from the ashes” following my devastating 2020 shack fire special event as well! How cool is that?*

73—Dave **W7UUU**

From QRZ:

Thanks for posting *The Bark*, I always enjoy reading it. I’m taking my wife to some appointments tomorrow so I will have all day to enjoy it.

Steve **KØUO**
Kiowa, Kansas

From QRZ:

What a GREAT club newsletter. Your hard work is very much appreciated—keep it going!!!

Parky **KB8UUZ**
Mantua, Ohio

*Steve & Mike—thanks so much for the kind words and support—Dave **W7UUU***

THE MAILBAG

LETTERS
To The Editor

W7UUU

To the Editor,

Thanks so much for the **W2OY** story in your latest *Logger's Bark* magazine [[April edition, page 80](#)]. I've been a ham for 56 years and have heard this bit of ham radio lore off and on about the 75-meter operator who used to specify "no kids, lids, or space cadets" when he called CQ. But no one who mentioned him ever had his call sign or other information about him. So it was a pleasure to read some *factual information* about him. It's a fascinating story.

But I do wonder about one thing—I'm not so sure **W2OY**'s reference to space cadets involved Sputnik. I think it's more likely he was referring to a couple of popular kid-oriented science fiction shows from the early 1950s—[Tom Corbett, Space Cadet](#), and [Flash Gordon](#). Both were live network shows but [kinescopes](#) exist. [both are now streamed on [Amazon.com](#) to rent or buy]

I look forward to reading your club newsletter magazine every month. It's great!

73-Dave **N4KZ**
Frankfort, KY

I think you're likely spot-on with that observation! In all my research for the article, I never found references to either TV show but that seems utterly plausible and highly likely. Both shows were before my time (born 1961). Thanks for writing in, and for the kind words.

73—Dave **W7UUU**



Dick Haungs (left) **W2UJR** and
Mike Premus **W2OY**

Photo: Hamgallery.com—used with permission

From QRZ:

Another great issue! I bet that Spy Radio was cool to use

73—Karl **KB8SKK**
Cincinnati, Ohio

Thanks Karl—yes the TW-100F Spy Transceiver is indeed a real treat to use. It feels so clandestine—right down to the Zero-Halliburton attaché case with dual 4-digit lid locks. I can only imagine the uses my particular example was put to over the years... surely just mundane use in some embassy I suppose but it's fun to think it might have been used for real "spy work" somewhere in the world!

73—Dave **W7UUU**

From QRZ:

It's amazing to me that a local publication like *The Logger's Bark* has more information and is more entertaining than ARRL's own magazine [QST]!

Simply guys, you've overdone yourselves with each new magazine. I'm really impressed.

Maybe the ARRL should take notes?

Isaac **K5EMG**
Weslaco, Texas

*Thanks for the kind words, Isaac. I hear this said fairly often but I still very much enjoy and respect what QST has to offer—it's just a different publication and I feel that what I do with The Bark in a way augments what the ARRL does. Our club was founded in October 1916, and became affiliated with The League in August 1920. Our Certificate of Affiliation is signed by the pen of The Old Man himself, none other than Hiram Percy Maxim **1AW** (later **W1AW**, both of which were his personal call signs before **W1AW** became the call sign of The League). We are also a "Special Services" club, and one of our members (Bob Purdom **AD7LJ**) is the ARRL WWA Section Manager. In fact, the Radio Club of Tacoma back in the 1930s hosted the ARRL Northwestern Convention for a number of years. So our club's connection to and respect for The League is deep and solid and has been for generations.*

73—Dave **W7UUU**

W7DK LOGGER'S CERTIFICATE

Classic "first award" for Members



HAVE YOU APPLIED for your own W7DK Logger's Certificate?! It's FREE and it's EASY! All you have to do is work at least 10 members of the Radio Club of Tacoma, then send in your list of call signs worked, and BAM! We'll print out your certificate and get it to you toot sweet by US Mail.



There are no confirmations required, no logs to submit, and really no rules other than the call signs you

submit must be

members of the club. You may work them on HF, 2m FM, on FT8 or SSB or any other mode! In fact, one of the best ways to get your 10 contacts is to check into the weekly Tuesday Night Net on the 147.28 club repeater... every Tuesday at 7:30 PM.

This venerable award was first launched in 1957, using certificate paper printed by club member Dick Ryan, **W7RGD** using a donated printing setup.

As of the date of this publication, there have been almost 700 certificates issued, including a few reissues over the years to replace lost certificates.

The original certificates were hand-lettered by long-time RCT member Barbara Osborne, **W7UYL** (SK 2022), and all of the records were kept in a

series of recipe boxes still held by the club.

We still have a huge stash of this beautiful OFFICIAL logger's Certificate paper.... So if you do not already have yours, just shoot us an email with your list of call signs worked, and put "Logger's Certificate" in the subject line... **—editor**

*Barbara Osborne
W7UYL in 1955
an
RCT USO event*



Have YOU earned your W7DK Logger's Certificate yet? We've not only issued over 660 of them over the years, but we've just issued our first two outside the local area! (**N6ACA & WZ4K**) - SEARCH YOUR LOG for Pierce County, WA and send me a list of the stations you have logged... You MAY ALREADY HAVE EARNED ONE!

Wanna get yours? Send in those contacts!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By: W7UUU



Warren NG7G

Hi—I'm Warren Angus NG7G—I've been around RCT since the 1980s when my parents (Dad N7LEA, Mom KA7GBQ (SK)) were members. I remember having "uncles"—my dad's friends from the radio club. I first tried to get my ham license in the '90s when the FCC introduced the No-Code Technician license, but I didn't succeed. I didn't try again until about ten years ago. With my dad's influence, I was drawn in by the challenge of studying for the FCC exams. After passing one test, I thought, "Why not the next one?" A few months later, I had my Extra.

I've continued pushing myself in ham radio—first with POTA, then by operating POTA from a motorcycle. I've been slowly learning Morse code and hope to be making CW contacts soon.

I really enjoy hanging out at the club's open house on Saturdays with more experienced members. I host the open house on the third Saturday of the month but try to attend most weekends. I've also operated during Field Day and occasionally served as a station manager. Additionally, I'm involved with the club's POTA and property management teams.



ASK ELMER!



Mystery Elmer



Dear Elmer,

I just picked up my very first amateur radio (a Baofeng UV-5RM Plus with GPS function), and I'll be honest—I'm starting from absolute square one. The only experience I've had with radios was using those basic family walkie-talkies you can grab at any big-box store like Walmart. But after seeing amateur radio operators in action during some emergency response efforts (after hurricane Helene last fall), I was genuinely impressed with what they were able to accomplish. That sparked my interest, and now I'm diving in.

I know this is just the beginning for me, and I do plan to grow into more advanced gear and skills over time. But for now, I could really use some guidance. I'm looking for the fundamentals—what are the first steps I should take to start learning how to use this thing properly? What should I be doing with it as a complete beginner?

I'm fully aware that transmitting without a license is off-limits, so for now, I'm sticking to listening. But even that can be a bit overwhelming when you don't know what to tune into or how it all works. Any resources, suggestions, or beginner-friendly tips would be super appreciated. Just trying to get a solid footing in this new world.

I found your *Logger's Bark* magazine linked on QRZ and saw you had this special column for complete noobs so I thought it would be a good thing to shoot off an email and that way I can be anonymous and not get flamed like in a forum. Thanks for any advice you can give me.

-New Bee

Dear New Bee,

First off, welcome to the hobby—and I'm glad you found our little rag *The Logger's Bark* out there on the Interwebz! You're in for a fun and rewarding journey if you stick with it. Good on you for recognizing you shouldn't be transmitting without a license. That's important. Since you're just getting started, the best first step is to *begin studying* for your [Technician license](#). That'll give you the legal ability to transmit, and it's not as hard as you might think.

There are free online resources like [Ham-Study.org](#) or inexpensive apps like "[Ham Radio Prep](#)" that make learning pretty easy and can be done on your phone.

If you can, find a local ham radio club. Most folks are more than happy to help newcomers, and some clubs even offer classes and test sessions. You'll learn a ton just being around other hams. You didn't mention where you are located, but just Google "Ham radio clubs near me" and you're almost certain to find at least one, if not several.

In the meantime, keep listening! Tuning into local repeaters is a great way to get a feel for how conversations flow. Try looking up repeater directories online (like [repeaterbook.com](#)) to find active ones near you. You'll also want to figure out the basics of how your radio works—YouTube is *full* of beginner guides for nearly every make and model out there.

Most of all, don't worry about "not knowing anything"—every ham started there. Keep asking questions, keep listening, and before long, you'll be on the air yourself. Thanks again for reaching out to the Mystery Elmer.

-Mystery Elmer #7



Baofeng UV-5RM+





	April		May, 2025				June	
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
18	April	April	April	April	1 06:00pm HF Night at the ...	2	3 10:00am Open House	
19	4	5	6 07:30pm 2 Meter Net 147 ...	7 07:00pm Board meeting	8 06:00pm HF Night at the ...	9	10 10:00am Open House 01:00pm General meeting ...	
20	11	12	13 07:00pm VE License Exam ... 07:30pm 2 Meter Net 147 ...	14	15 06:00pm HF Night at the ...	16	17 10:00am Open House	
21	18 10:00am POTA Nolte Stat ...	19	20 07:30pm 2 Meter Net 147 ...	21	22 06:00pm HF Night at the ...	23	24 10:00am Open House	
22	25	26	27 07:30pm 2 Meter Net 147 ...	28	29 06:00pm HF Night at the ...	30 08:00am SEA-PAC	31 08:00am SEA-PAC 10:00am Open House	

Recurring Special Contests All Categories ... [Click map to view on W7DK.org with active links!](#)

Did You Know??

In ancient Rome, the month of May was considered unlucky for weddings, stemming from the Lemuria festival, held on May 9, 11, and 13. During this time, Romans believed restless spirits (called lemures) roamed the earth. To appease them, families performed rituals, including tossing black beans over their shoulders at midnight while reciting incantations. The belief that May was an inauspicious time for marriage endured for centuries, reflected in the old Roman saying, *Mense Maio malae nubunt*—"Bad women marry in May." This superstition persisted long after the fall of Rome.

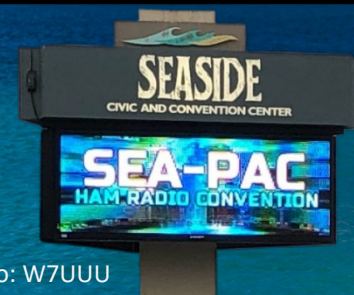


Artist rendering of lemures

SEA-PAC 2025

By John Bucsek, KE7WNB

Photo: W7UUU



SEA-PAC THE NORTHWEST'S LARGEST HAM CONVENTION!

SEA-PAC BEGAN 43 YEARS AGO IN 1982. It also serves as the ARRL Northwestern Division Convention and will take place this year from May 30 through June 1.

Admission remains \$20 at the door or \$15 with preregistration. Confirmed guests include Kristen McIntyre **K6WX**, ARRL First Vice President; Mike Ritz **W7VO**, ARRL Second Vice President; Mike Tharp **KB7HDX**, Northwestern Division Director; and Michael Sterba **KG7HQ**, Northwestern Division Vice Director. Additionally, numerous division directors from across the Northwestern Division will be in attendance. Our special guest this year is Gordon West **WB7NOA**, who will speak at seminars and the banquet.

FRIDAY, MAY 30 – WORKSHOPS & EVENING EVENTS

Friday is dedicated to workshops. This year, we offer a Practical EmComm Workshop and a DMR Workshop, designed to introduce hams to DMR. Attendees will leave with a programmed AnyTone AT-D878 HT and an MMDVM-based hotspot. Preregistration is required for workshops.

On Friday evening, there is a Meet and Greet Reception with the attending ARRL staff (\$30 fee, includes light snacks; cash bar available). The annual Radios at the Beach event begins at 7 p.m.—bring your portable rig and join the fun, or stop by to see how others operate portable.

SATURDAY MAY 31 IS PACKED WITH ACTIVITIES:

- VE testing will take place at 9 a.m. across the street at the Lutheran Church.
- The Vendor and Flea Market areas will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Free seminars will be held throughout the day.
- A DX and YL Luncheon will take place (preregistration required, \$25, lunch provided).
- In the evening, the banquet will feature Gordon West as the guest of honor (preregistration required, \$50).

SUNDAY, JUNE 1 – WRAPPING UP

- The Upstairs Flea Market and Vendor Area will be open from 9 a.m. to noon.
- Additional seminars will be held.

PRIZES & DRAWINGS

- Each regular registration allows the purchase of one minor prize ticket (value <\$100) for \$2.
- Any attendee can buy multiple major prize tickets for \$5 each (prize value up to \$1,500).
- Prize Drawings Schedule:
- Minor prizes: Saturday at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., and 2 p.m.; Sunday at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.
- Early Bird prize: Sunday at 1 p.m.
- Major prizes: Saturday at 2:45 p.m.; Sunday at 1:15 p.m.

For more information, visit the SEA-PAC website:

www.seapac.org

-John **KE7WNB**





The Margie Chavis

K7AMJ 1966

50th Anniversary

Scrapbook: Part Two

W7UUU



IN 1966 MARGIE
CHAVIS, K7AMJ (SK)

put together a
wonderful

scrapbook of W7DK
club news clippings,
notable events, photos,
etc. This monthly
column will run for just
a few issues, and
feature selected items
from the scrapbook
just for a Fahnestock
glimpse into the club's
past. Even those
readers who are not a
member will still find
enjoyment in reading
about historical ham
radio tidbits from more
than half a century ago.

—editor



Radio Club of Tacoma—Members of the Radio Club of Tacoma, organized in 1916, assemble at Red Cross chapter house, Broadway at 7th St., to test equipment in preparation for disaster relief calls from the Red Cross. Left to right: Dick Engh, Max Bice, Charles Aufang and Dr. F. Clifford J. Spike.

While not dated specifically, this photo dates from 1963 or so as do most photos in Margie's album. Caption reads: "Members of the Radio Club of Tacoma, organized in 1916, assemble at Red Cross chapter house, Broadway at 7th St., to test equipment in preparation for disaster relief calls from the Red Cross". Left to right in the photo: Dick Engh (no call sign known); Max Bice **W7AEA**, Charles Aufang **W7BMG**, and Doc Spike **W7OS**.

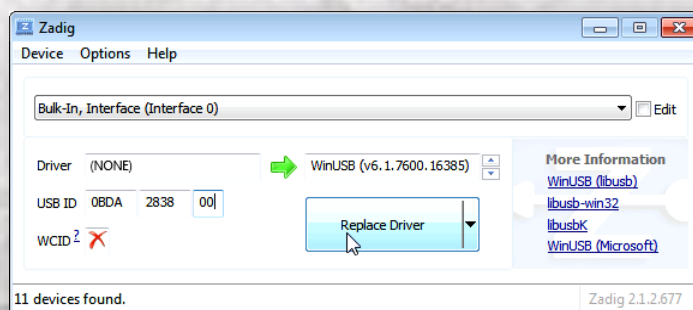


IF YOU HAPPENED TO READ THE FRUGAL HAM COLUMN in last month's *Logger's Bark* (page 23), you would have been introduced to the very inexpensive [RTL-SDR.com V4 SDR dongle](#) package that was featured. In short, it's a very inexpensive (\$44 including an antenna kit and mini-tripod [from Amazon](#)) SDR receiver that covers the frequency range from 500 KHz to 1.76 GHz receiving all common modulation modes: AM, FM (wide and narrow), SSB, and CW. With such a broad frequency range, the number of radio services that can be monitored is pretty comprehensive.

I've now had a month to play with the RTL-SDR.com V4 receiver, both at home and on a 2-day getaway at a hotel on the Olympic Peninsula. I figured this way, I could cover the most typical uses of such a receiver—a fun gizmo not only for home but also to tuck in a laptop case for travel.

First things first: Drivers I had to set up the USB software drivers to run the RTL-SDR dongle. You can find all of that at [THIS LINK](#). The device is not “plug and play” like most USB devices. The Quick Start guide will walk you through the process. It's pretty easy for anyone reasonably “computer savvy” but if you're not comfortable messing with USB drivers, it might be best to ask a computer-geeky friend for help. The only really tricky bit comes in a stage of the installation where you must install a utility called [Zadig](#). This is a universal USB driver in-

stallation tool. You will use it to actually install the WinUSB driver that you downloaded during the earlier steps. There's an instruction that will call for you to “Replace Driver” after you select this new driver from a dropdown menu that will show you many available system USB drivers. If you don't pay attention, and scroll to the wrong driver, you *could* overwrite some other very important USB resource and break your system. Just watch what you are doing and you'll be fine.



Zadig USB management tool

After all of these steps are completed, you then need to install a suitable SDR receiver software package that will interface to the RTL-SDR USB dongle, which then becomes the user interface for using the receiver. There are many software packages to choose from. In fact, there are LOTS of them. [HERE IS A LINK](#) to all of the software that will support the RTL-SDR receiver at the time of this writing. And remember: the SDR dongle receiver *just brings the data into the software*; the two don't “talk” to each other outside of the software just displaying what it's being fed. In other words, if the SDR dongle isn't performing the way you think it should, it's very likely NOT the software you chose! It's the receiver itself. Don't blame the software for inadequacies of the hardware.

Despite there being dozens of software packages to choose from (most are free but some you must buy), if you're just getting started [you can't go wrong with SDR++](#). It's free, runs on Windows, Linux, OSX, & BSD, and it's really easy to figure out even if you've never used an SDR before. For most users, at least at the beginning, SDR++ is a solid performer and will get you started using the RTL-SDR or any other similar device.





So what are my impressions? I initially set the SDR up on my kitchen table just to have a comfortable well-lit place to get things set up and working. The [kit from Amazon](#) (there are many sellers but this link is just the one I used) comes with a “rabbit ears” antenna and nifty little table-top tripod to mount it to. You also get a decent SMA extension cable to move the antenna to a window ledge (which I did at the hotel—see last page). It’s very easy to assemble the antenna and hook it to the SDR and fire up the SDR++ software. You just need to remember to select the RTL-SDR from the “Source” menu, and hit the “Play” (triangle) button. That launches the receiver and you should immediately start to see some signal activity and hear audio from your computer speakers.

The software launched at what appeared to be a random VHF frequency, but I quickly figured out the tuning interface and dialed in KISW FM at 99.9 on the dial... and BAM! Rock music was playing mightily into my laptop speakers. I could clearly see the brightly colored streaks of “waterfall” bandwidth from not only KISW FM but from numerous other nearby FM broadcast stations. Audio was crisp and clear, and when I clicked the “Stereo” button sure enough, I had full rich stereo music from most any FM station I tuned to. I did notice right off that the RF gain control is critical to help prevent overloading. Just dial it down until the waterfall is showing actual signals and

not a wild background of colors from being overdriven. You’ll get the hang of it quickly.

Next I tried the AM broadcast band, and once again I was able to easily tune to virtually all of the local Seattle-area stations just using the rabbit ears on the kitchen table.

One odd bit I did notice—even with the antenna disconnected, I still saw quite a few signals in the waterfall. I’m guessing it picks up the various oscillators internal to the USB dongle (and probably the laptop as well) and is displaying those unwanted signals as “spurs”. But they cause very little issue once the antenna is connected and strong signals are present.

Now for the big test—shortwave and ham bands! Whenever I initially test any shortwave receiver I like to jump to the WWV time frequencies—5 MHz, 10 MHz, and 15 MHz specifically. This is a great way to judge at a very basic level “what do I have here and how well does it work?”.

This is where it became pretty clear that simple rabbit ears on the kitchen table is not the greatest of antennas! However, I was still able to pick up WWV at 10 MHz with sufficient signal to copy the audio. I tuned across the 20m band and neither heard nor saw anything but that very likely was due to the fact it was midday on a Wednesday. Regardless—consider the very basic rabbit ears to be “local stations pickup only” and



Kitchen table initial testing location—note the rabbit ears (included) on the little tripod mount



Closeup of KISW 99.5—note the poor S/N ratio due to a very basic antenna (rabbit ears on the table) using AirSpy software



don't expect to have the performance of an outdoor antenna. That's just common sense.

After the basic tests with the rabbit ears, it was time to haul the laptop out to the shack and put the RTL-SDR V4 receiver on a real antenna or two and see how well it might perform.

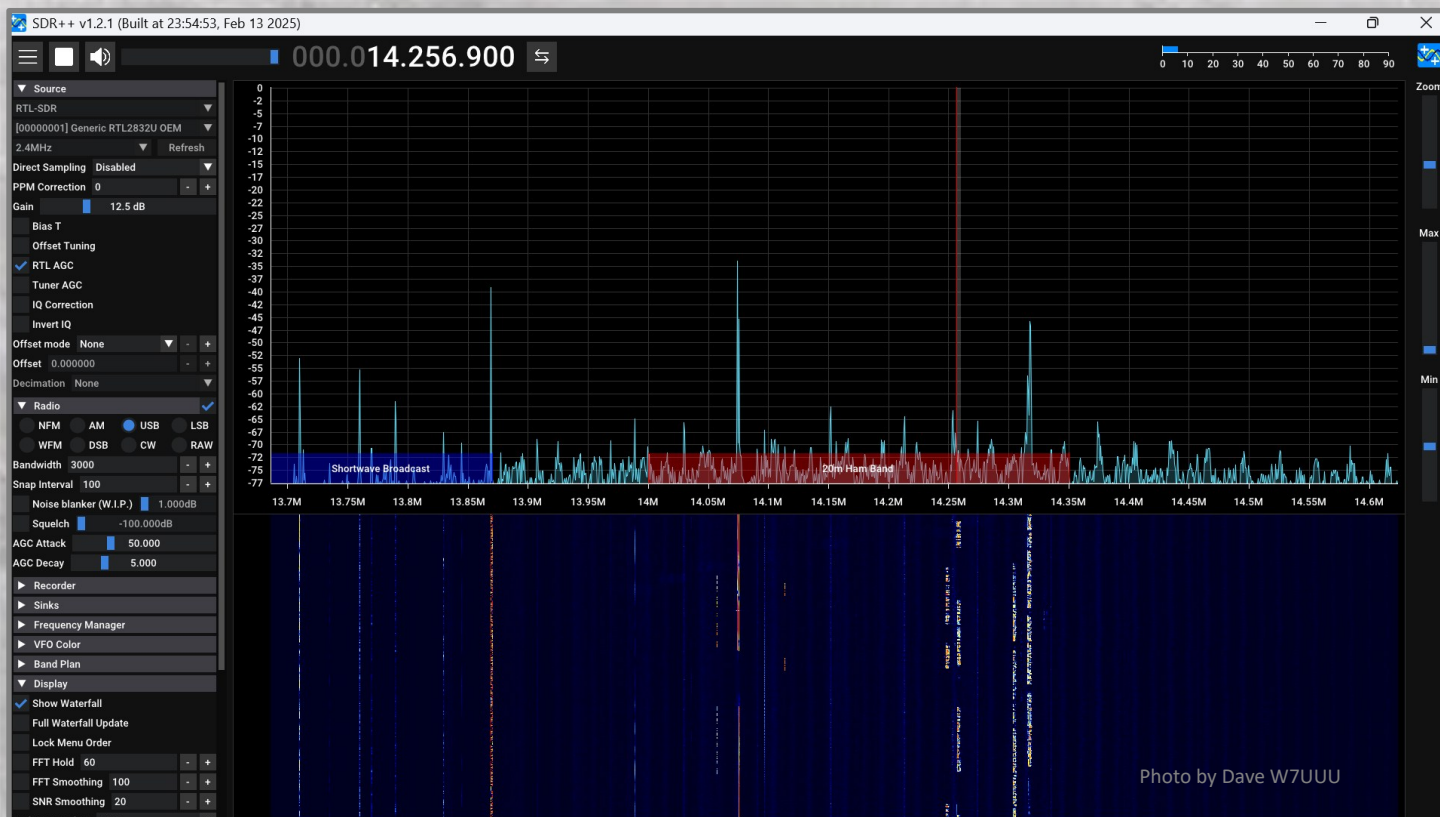
The first such test was with my trusty G5RV that has been up in the trees since winter of 2017 when I first moved "out to the sticks". It's a nice antenna for just checking out a receiver, as it's pretty open to a broad range of signals off the air. It's horizontally deployed, about 45 feet up between trees.

Once connected, I immediately noticed the vast improvement over the rabbit ears. Even the much-maligned G5RV pulled in lots and lots of signals, including all three major WWV frequencies: 5 MHz, 10 MHz, and 15 MHz. And of course, all the FM and AM broadcast as before—just much stronger.

The high-performance antenna test was with the SteppIR DB28E Yagi up at 70 feet on my tower, dialed in for the bottom of the

20-meter ham band to also receive the popular 22m (13 MHz) shortwave broadcast band. The results were quite exhilarating. See the screen capture below—many signals fully lit up the waterfall, and tuning across them was easy and fun, with outstanding audio (once again, remembering to dial in the RF gain so the waterfall background is only showing signals, not filled with reds and oranges of overdriven background noise). This is an important step when using any SDR.

With a good antenna (or antennas, if many frequency ranges are desired), the RTL-SDR can be a really fun little device to disappear into for hours. Note the relative strength of the signal peaks (vs. the noise, indicating a great S/N ratio). The red horizontal band outlines the 20m ham band, the blue band is the 22m shortwave band. The SDR++ software is very customizable, allowing you to arrange many parameters—zoom level, bandspread width, etc. Once you get used to the interface it becomes second nature to move around the band exploring what all those signals are.





Later that week, I took it on the road for a getaway in [Port Angeles, WA](#). I set the SDR rig up near a window, and placed the rabbit ears with a clear view to the sky. But just as with my test in the living room, the RTL-SDR was pretty deaf. Most of the big Seattle FM stations were still clear, as were many of the more power AM broadcast stations. Performance on the shortwave bands was dismal. Were I to travel with the RTL-SDR using only the basic rabbit ears it came with, I'd have to settle for basic AM/FM broadcast radio and not much more. But based on my initial testing on the first day, this was to be expected with such a low-performance antenna.

Bottom line: Overall, when paired with a good antenna, the RTL-SDR V4 is a pretty impressive little receiver in my opinion for a mere \$44 (and cheaper if you forego the rabbit ears option—I've seen it for under \$30 for just the dongle itself). I plan to install it on one of the "permanent shack computers" and bring it out to my antenna patch bay just to add to my arsenal of fun receivers to play with.

If you're looking for a little "radio gift to yourself" for not a lot of money, the RTL-SDR V4 could just be what you're looking for—and certainly fits within the range of "the Frugal Ham".

-Dave W7UUU



The rabbit ears as placed in the window of my hotel room in Port Angeles, WA. Not much better than at the kitchen table!

HERE'S A LIST OF SDR PACKAGES COMPATIBLE

with the RTL-SDR V4 SDR receiver dongle as described in this article. There are many more—these are just the "big ones" ■ *-editor*

- [SDR# \(SDRSharp\)](#) – Windows; Free/Paid. Developed by AirSpy, one of the most popular SDR applications with plugin support. [Good for beginners]
- [HDSDR](#) – Windows; Free. A well-established SDR program with a traditional receiver-style interface. [I've used this one in the past—very cool layout]
- [SDRUno](#) – Windows; Free. Originally developed for SDRplay but also works with RTL-SDR via an ExtIO plugin.
- [GQRX](#) – Linux, macOS; Free. A solid, multi-platform SDR receiver with a clean UI.
- [CubicSDR](#) – Windows, Linux, macOS; Free. A modern, multi-platform SDR receiver with liquid-dsp processing.
- [SDR++](#) – Windows, Linux, macOS; Free. Lightweight, modular, and fast, with an intuitive interface. [This is the one used for this article]
- [GNU Radio](#) – Linux; Free. A powerful DSP framework for creating custom SDR applications.
- [Linrad](#) – Windows, Linux, macOS; Free. Advanced SDR software with powerful DSP capabilities but a steep learning curve.
- [Studio1](#) – Windows; Paid. Commercial SDR software with low CPU usage and excellent DSP performance.
- [SDR Console](#) – Windows; Free. Feature-rich SDR receiver with excellent remote operation capabilities.

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

But first.... A little *about* the Clubhouse



W7DK

THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA IS UNIQUE not only in its age (continuously operating since October 1916) but also in its ownership of an actual clubhouse and adjacent parking lot. The current clubhouse was purchased by members in 1957 (the previous clubhouse was purchased in 1927!) and has been maintained on this site ever since. But it takes time, talent, and treasure to keep this dream a reality. Club membership is one of the solid ongoing means with which the club maintains not only members to help with the upkeep, but to also raise the capital that's required to keep our clubhouse in tip-top shape.

If you are not yet a member, please consider joining—even if you're not local! If you enjoy reading The Logger's Bark from afar, you can be a part of our club just as if you were here. And if you are a local, please consider contributing your own skills and effort to keep this club the wonderful thing it is. Ask any officer how you can help. Thanks to all our loyal members! -Dave W7UUU

JOIN NOW!

All photos this page provided by RCT Archives

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



John **KJ7SJM** shows off his 3-D printed "ham died at his radio working a contest" statue!



Red **WB7EC** evaluating a microphone in the Clubhouse kitchen



Walt **WA7SDY** happily running his sale table on a "Last Saturday" mini-swap meet at the club



Steve **AD7VL** documents a really cool transceiver donation he arranged for the club PMT committee

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Museum Curator Dan **KD7SV** relaxes in his realm of tube gear he truly loves so much! (As do I!)



Bob **K7MXE** points out the location data on his newly-built GMRS repeater in the Eatonville area



Warren **NG7G** hanging out in the classroom



Dan **KD7SV** digs into the museum's rare Hammarlund HX-50 transmitter

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



"The gang's all here" in the Lou Room!



Wheeling and dealing in a Last Saturday Mini Swap Meet at the clubhouse



*POTA Chair B.J. **K07T** (left) visits with regular POTA participant John **N7TES***



*Caught by surprise!! John **AG7LO** (left) working with Stephen **AD7AB** on a programming project*

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

*All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU***

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Cool stuff always abounds on "Last Saturday" mini Swap Meet day at the Clubhouse



It's always a great time to snag a good deal on something you truly NEED!!



CAPTION CONTEST! I have no idea what the dynamic was: Ellen **A17FP**, Warren **NG7G**, & Phil **KC7PS**
Email your caption and I'll publish the one I think is the best and **SEND YOU SOME STICKERS!!!**

All photos this page provided by Dave **W7UUU**



AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



President Adam **W2NCC** deciding between a donut and a cupcake (I think he went with neither)



Joe **KJ7JAY** cut to the chase: Donut for the win!



Brad **KK7YQC** (who NEVER doesn't smile!) with Phil **K7PIA** waving to the Bark readers



Walt **WA7SDY** just finished his check-ins to the 7.284 Noontime Net

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Mike **W7MKE** and Rod **W7RKZ** hanging out in the W7OS club museum



Dave **W7GEL** talks motorcycles with Warren **NG7G**, and his BMW 850GS that he takes on POTA trips with an Icom IC-705



Wade **W7ITL** recently showed off his clever iPhone app that works with a Meshtastic node to "follow the subject"



"The gang's all here in the Lou Room"

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK



Stephen **AD7AB** hard at it in the Lou Room



President Adam **W2NCC** visits with Wade **W7ITL** in the Oakman Library room of the Clubhouse



Nolan **K7GBM** chatting it up in the clubhouse kitchen on a recent Saturday



Walt **WA7SDY** tuning up on 40 meters SSB

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU**

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



W7DK

Name	Call Sign
Jim Wolff	AH2CG
Klaus Topbjerg	AI7TY
Anna Winter	K7ANA
Paul Nosal	K7OSS
Rob Lee	K7TGU
Steve Schenk	K7YEM
Scott Peterson	KA7IOX
Jay Leatham	KA7JAY
Vic Owen	KB7GL
Stephen Collazo	KD5NSD
Whit Worcester	KG7LNZ
Joe Kubistek	KG7ZYB
Sam Rentfro	KI7AAY
Michael Benzien	KJ6TJD
Paul Thorpe	KJ7JCB
Glenn Young	KJ7MMX
Michael Brugato	KK7BMT
Kevin Martinez	KK7LUI
Kurt Bigbee	KK7NKT
Johan Pool	KK7NYV
Brenda Benzien	KK7PQT
Eman Pleshe	KK7QLW
Nathan Brighton	KK7QND
Mark Shelton	KK7WMQ
BJ Rollison	KO7T
Kathleen Nace	N0EYK
Nick Olson	N7BCV
Tom Smith	N7CFI
Ronald McCallister	N7FYA
Paul Quinn	N7LJG
Troy Cleghorn	N7PIE
Brett Erwin	NU7DX
Dick Giguere	W1UG
Adam Barbera	W2NCC
Mary Timblin	W7MET
Mark Matthies	W7MRK
Mike Shannon	WA7BDK
Carlos Smith	WA7ER
Andy Evancho	WA7JGO
Rodney Saucedo	WV7O



Bob **K7MXE** hanging out with Stephen **AD7AB**
at a recent Saturday Open House day



The gang's all here—classroom edition—on a
recent clubhouse Mini Swapmeet day

photos by Dave **W7UUU**

May Birthdays!!



CLUB ACTIVITIES

Thursday HF Nights

MOST EVERY THURSDAY EVENING from 6PM until 9PM, the Radio Club of Tacoma opens the HF room for one-on-one training time. Saturdays are a great time to come see the clubhouse and socialize, but often it's tough to get "quality time" with the radios. This weekly event is open to all—members and non-members alike. There is always at least one Extra Class operator on hand with a solid knowledge of the Icom and Flex radios in use, as well as the antenna patch bay, amplifiers, and tuners. Even non-licensed "hams to be" can take a hand operating under the tutelage and watchful eye of an experienced "Elmer" on hand to show the ropes. Come on by any Thursday! ■ *-editor*



Recent activity on Thursday HF Nights!
Come Join Us!!



Photos provided by Mike W7MKE



Open House Reminder!

THIS IS JUST A WELCOMING & REMINDER that the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse holds an open house on most Saturdays of the year (click [HERE](#) for exclusions) from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There's always a nice group of members but ALL visitors interested in amateur radio are welcome to stop by! You do not have to be a member or even a ham to visit us. Please be sure to sign the Visitor's Logbook in the kitchen, say hello to your Clubhouse Host, have a cup of coffee and a donut (always a nice assortment on hand). You may wander the building—visiting the classroom, the downstairs “shack parlor” we call The Lou Room, and of course upstairs to see the main HF room and the [W7OS Doc Spike Memorial museum](#)—a living collection of vintage gear that regularly gets on the air.

The last Saturday of every month, we hold a mini flea market where members can sell their ham gear. But even non-members are eligible to dicker for deals and take home gear. And starting around 11:30, our club Chef Paul **W7PFU** serves up free chilidogs, or sometimes burgers or spaghetti at the chef's whim. We hope to see you stop by soon!

■ -editor

W7DK Clubhouse Kitchen on a recent Saturday



Mini-Swap Meet Monthly

DO YOU HAVE EXCESS GEAR TO SELL? Members of The Radio Club of Tacoma have a little perk every month with our own mini Swapmeet held in the clubhouse on the last Saturday of each month. No charge for a table—just bring your wares and set up shop! Non-members and visitors are free to stop by and see if they can pick up bargains. The club also has gear donated regularly that is made available to visitors and members alike, available for purchase via donation. And of course, as mentioned in the Open House reminder, the club chef Paul **W7PFU** cooks up chilidogs or spaghetti (whatever suits his mood!) at no charge for guests. ■ -editor



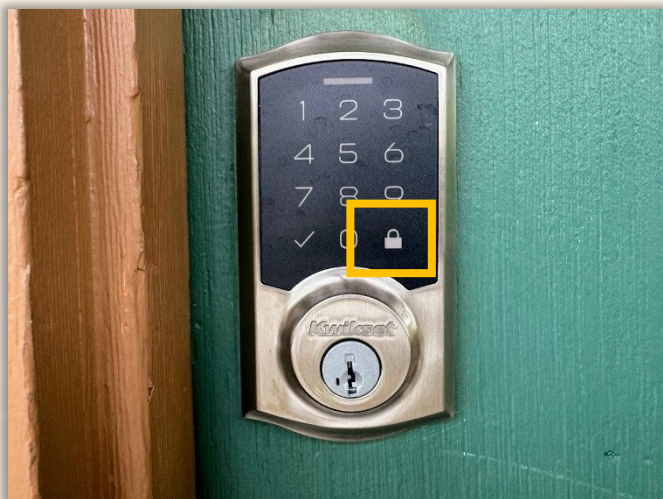


How To Lock The Doors

AS WAS REPORTED in last month's Bark by our club Secretary, Gary **WG7X**, in recent months there have been reports of the clubhouse being found unattended and the doors not even locked! Obviously, this is not acceptable. It's the responsibility of the Club Hosts on Open House Day (Saturday) or those who have door and alarm codes on other days to make certain the building is secure when leaving.

But should you be in the position of being the "last one out", you can still LOCK THE DOOR even if you don't have the code or a key. Simply pull the door closed and push the "lock symbol". The battery-powered mechanism will then lock the door (you won't be able to get back in without the code!). This applies to both the front door and the back door. See photo below—note the "lock" button.

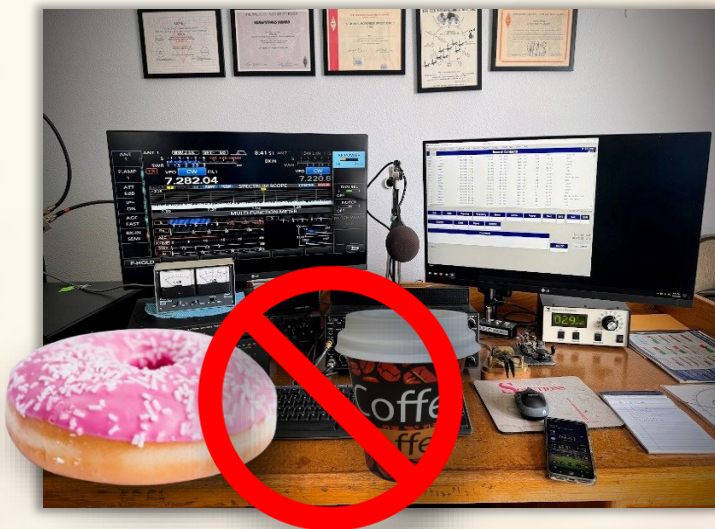
-Dave **W7UUU**



Help Keep The Clubhouse Clean

THIS IS JUST A GENTLE REMINDER that the W7DK Clubhouse is for all members to use and enjoy, and is a place to put our best foot forward as a club for visitors we welcome in almost every Saturday of the year.

Please be mindful of leaving trash, empty cans or bottles, food wrappers, McDonalds bags, and whatever else. Same holds for coffee cups... we frequently see cups left on classroom tables, the kitchen counters, at the Lou Room table, and wherever else. Please just make sure to "pick up after yourself". Also, remember that liquids and radios don't mix. Please don't take cans or cups of beverages into the HF room or the Museum—just water bottles with lids or closures of some sort. And no "sticky foods" like donuts! No one wants to reach for the tuning knob only to find your sticky donut residue on it!



NUMBERS STATIONS

By Dave W7UUU

THE STRANGE WORLD OF NUMBERS STATIONS

If you've ever tuned across the shortwave bands and stumbled on a strange mechanical-sounding or robot-sounding voice calmly reciting what seem to be random numbers, you very likely have uncovered one of radio's really fun "great unsolved mysteries": the numbers station. These broadcasts, often eerie and monotonous, have filled the airwaves for decades—mostly ignored by the public, but well-known to spies, shortwave hobbyists, and intelligence historians. And of course, hams! Numbers stations remain one of the most enigmatic uses of radio, with ties to espionage, Cold War history, and uncrackable codes. And they are NOT just a "thing of the past" - there are still a few such stations on the air most every day of the year if you know where and when to listen.

So for some historical context... numbers stations first emerged in a recognizable form (not unlike what we still hear today) during World War I, although cryptic coded messages were heard even earlier in radio's infancy. By the 1920s and 1930s, intelligence services in Europe and elsewhere were already experimenting with transmitting encoded information to agents overseas. However, it wasn't until the [Cold War era](#) that numbers stations became widespread and systematic.

Throughout the Cold War—from the 1950s through the late 1980s—both the East and the West needed a simple, secure, and untraceable way to communicate with covert agents operating in enemy territory. Shortwave radio provided the ideal medium: such signals could reach any part of the globe, and required only relatively inexpensive equipment to send and receive, and the broadcast origin could be fairly easily masked.

By the 1970s and 1980s, hundreds of these stations were active across the HF (high frequency) bands. Anyone with a shortwave receiver could hear them—but only their intended recipients, armed with [one-time pads](#) (an unbreakable single-use encryption method), could decode the actual message.

Governments never officially acknowledged the stations' existence, although several have been confirmed through

espionage court trials and resulting declassified documents. Despite the Cold War ending, many numbers stations continued into the 2000s—and a few are still active today.

So what frequencies and modes do they use? Numbers stations operate only in the HF spectrum, typically between 3 and 30 MHz. These frequencies allow for fairly easy long-distance propagation via ionospheric reflection just like ham radio signals on the HF bands. Stations often change frequencies based on time of day, season, or solar conditions, aiming to maintain reliable coverage of their target area... the same sorts of band choices we make as hams. Of course, the agents behind these clandestine stations likely know little or nothing about radio propagation—so are simply told what frequency to use at what time of day.

Most stations broadcast at relatively low power compared to international broadcasters—yet they are often received over thousands of miles. There are lots of reasons for the low-power—most likely to avoid detection locally. No sense drawing attention to your little spy operation by getting into your apartment block neighbor's sound system!

Some long-time well-documented frequencies for past stations include:

4625 KHz —UVB76 "The Buzzer" - still often heard today
5715 KHz —V24 South Korean station active since the 1970s
6577 KHz— Caribbean stations who interfere with ATC

Other common frequencies over the years (in KHz):
7502, 7688, 8169, 8300, 9276, 11430, 13974, 14944,
15388, 15980, 18040, 19052, 20025, and 20095

Some stations broadcast on a strict, predictable schedule (e.g., daily at the same time), while others appear irregularly or only during specific missions. Station "families" often use identical formats and voices across multiple channels, which strongly suggests centralized origins of the intelligence being sent. Of course, in later years, the voices were not live or even tape-recorded—in many cases they were not even human but rather based on voice synthesizers.

NUMBERS STATIONS

As for modes, the broadcasts can easily be received using standard basic shortwave receivers, though a few more modern stations use digital modes requiring special decoders or SDR (software-defined radio) setups. Although rare today, CW (Morse) stations were very common during the Cold War and I in fact remember hearing them fairly often as a teenage ham on my Hallicrafters S-85 shortwave receiver that I used as a Novice and General in 1975.

The formats for sending the information have varied wildly over the decades. While many numbers stations share common traits, their formats can be almost anything. But generally these include:

Voice Transmissions: The most iconic format features synthesized or recorded human voices reading groups of numbers or letters. These voices are typically female and may speak in English, Spanish, German, Russian, or other languages. The rhythm is often mechanical and repetitive, sometimes with noticeable pauses between groups. Many appear to be from a single tape, “chopped up” so that individual numbers are sent that have been “cut from the tape” in other sections and pasted in.

Morse Code (CW): A fair number of older numbers stations—especially those operated by Eastern Bloc countries—transmitted numbers via Morse code. These are sometimes referred to as “Morse stations” and could easily blend into amateur radio activity, being sent in known amateur radio band segments—though trained ears could *easily* distinguish hams vs. spies.

Digital Modes: In the 1990s and beyond, some stations adopted digital data modes such as FSK (frequency shift keying), PSK (phase shift keying), or more obscure protocols. One well-known digital numbers station, known as “SK01,” sends messages in a Cuban digital mode using what sounds like an RTTY or modem-style signal.

Interval Signals and Callups: Most stations begin with an “interval signal”—a short musical tune, a tone sequence, or repeating phrase used to cue the listener. These are often haunting and iconic. The interval is fol-

lowed by an identifier, which could be a call sign (real or fictitious), a repeated word (like “Atención!”), or simply the first group of numbers. Such signals are often sent for fairly long durations, alerting the listener that “something is coming”.

Over the many years of the history of Numbers Stations, a fair number have become very well-known. In fact a few are something of “radio lore heroes” - having been discussed for decades in shortwave magazines around the world. Even though no one knows what their messages were, human nature makes it fun for an SWL (Shortwave Listener) to just listen and ponder, “what are they sending?” I had many hours of doing that myself as a teenager... Here are a few famous stations you can still find recordings of on YouTube and in online archives like [The Conet Project](#) that is dedicated to the documenting and archiving of numbers stations recordings and lore.

The very first numbers station I ever became aware of as a kid is called **The Lincolnshire Poacher** ... the name of the station comes from the tune played as the lengthy intro music. This was to allow the recipient time to “get settled” and ready to copy the number sequences to follow. Let the 4.5 minutes play through and try to imagine just what all those numbers might have meant, when the recipient looked them up in his one-time pad codebook! Fascinating!

The Lincolnshire Poacher was believed to be operated by [MI6](#) (British intelligence). It used the cheerful English folk tune “The Lincolnshire Poacher” as its interval signal, followed by a woman with a British accent reading five-number groups.



NUMBERS STATIONS

The station operated on several frequencies between 5 and 16 MHz and broadcasted regularly until it ceased operation around 2008. It's believed to have transmitted from the air base [RAF Akrotiri](#) in Cyprus.

Swedish Rhapsody

Swedish Rhapsody is another common station from the era. As with the previous clip, right-click > open-new-tab to listen to this very cryptic numbers station from the past. This time, the interval signal comes from a music box, followed by a very creepy young girl's robotic voice reciting numbers.

This station was long thought to feature a little girl's voice speaking German, but it was later revealed to be a high-pitched female machine voice. It used a haunting music-box



rendition of "Luxembourg Polka" (mistakenly thought to be "Swedish Rhapsody") as its interval signal. It likely originated in Poland and was aimed at agents operating in Western Europe. It ceased operation in the late 1990s.

UVB-76 – "The Buzzer"



This Russian station has been transmitting almost continuously since the late 1970s. Most of the time, it broadcasts a monotonous buzzing sound, 25 times per minute, 24 hours a day. Occasionally, the buzzer is interrupted by short voice messages in Russian, giving military-sounding call signs or brief instructions. UVB-76 has fascinated listeners for decades due to its bizarre behavior and sudden changes, including long silences, cryptic messages, and apparent transmitter relocations. Still active, it can often be heard on 4625 kHz. (There is even a live feed of it on [YouTube LINK](#)).

E06—"The English Man"

"The English Man" station was part of a family of English-language numbers stations attributed to British intelligence.



NUMBERS STATIONS

The male voice used was calm, British-accented, and professional-sounding—likely generated by a speech synthesizer. E06 “The English Man” was active for many years during the Cold War and could be heard sending five-number groups in a structured format. Though defunct now, recordings are preserved in online archives.

VO2 – “Atención”



This Spanish-language station from Cuba was used to send instructions to Cuban agents abroad. It became famous due to the [“Cuban Five” spy trial](#) in the U.S. in 1998. The messages often began with the word “¡Atención!” followed by five-digit groups read by a female voice. Some transmissions have also used a digital mode known as “SK01.” VO2 was still active into the 2010s and might be one of the last officially confirmed government-run numbers stations. There are documented reports of hearing VO2 “Atención” as recently as 2019 and it is very likely still on the air.

So how is the encryption and security of such numbers stations maintained? Most numbers station messages are believed to use [one-time pads](#)—a cipher system considered unbreakable when implemented properly. The sender and receiver each have identical pads of random numbers, used only once to encode and decode the message. Even if an outsider intercepts the transmission, without the matching pad, the message is indecipherable. This makes numbers stations one of the most secure forms of long-distance communication ever devised.

This low-tech approach also has a high degree of deniability.

A spy caught with only a shortwave radio and a notepad is difficult to tie directly to any source, especially when the message content is impossible to decode.

Despite their shadowy nature, numbers stations have captured the imagination of generations of radio enthusiasts—myself included, when I was a new ham tuning the bands in 1975 on a Hallicrafters S-85 general coverage receiver (my first ‘real’ ham receiver, after using a Heathkit HW-7 for 9 months as my sole rig).

From conspiracy theories and spy thrillers to academic cryptography papers and online fan communities, these broadcasts have become a unique cultural phenomenon. As recently as 2013, a feature film starring John Cusack, called [“The Numbers Station”](#), prominently featured numbers stations (albeit, like so many Hollywood movies depicting anything to do with radio, it’s somewhat cringe-worthy).

As you’ve seen from the small sampling of YouTube recordings in this article of some of the more famous Numbers Stations, you can still find recordings of these stations online. In fact, there’s no shortage of such sound clips all over YouTube. Another resource is called [The Conet Project](#) which maintained a vast library of numbers stations recordings. From 1997 until 2019 they sold sets of CDs, albeit at a pretty high cost. But they turn up used from time to time on eBay if you are persistent and want the full set of recordings—including many defunct stations.

While many well-known stations have gone silent, some still buzz away on obscure frequencies, suggesting that even in the digital age, old-school shortwave still has a role to play in global intelligence. It makes perfect sense in that HF radio is cheaper than it has ever been, and with one-time pads for the security encryption scheme, sending messages this way still holds its own even in this era.

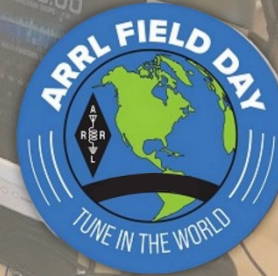
Do you have a numbers station YouTube video or sound clip you’d like to share (*one you recorded yourself*)? If so, shoot me an email with links to YouTube or other online sources and I’ll possibly run it in an upcoming *Bark* issue!

—Dave W7UUU

W7DK FIELD DAY 2025

PLANNING STAGE

By FD Planner Mike **W7MKE**



W7DK

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA — 2025 Field Day Plan

By Mike **W7MKE**

As I begin my second year as Field Day manager, the process feels a bit easier.

There will be only a few changes from last year's setup, aside from some personnel shifts.

So far, planning has been through informal conversations with key stakeholders, past managers, and some initial recruiting. As before, I've received valuable insights from several experienced Radio Club of Tacoma Field Day veterans—Gary **WG7X**, Al **N7OMS**, Randy **WB4SPB**, Mike **W7XH**, Paul **W7PFU**, and others. We've also secured four station managers:

Gary WG7X will manage the 10M station using the Icom IC-7600.

Mike W7XTZ will manage the 20M station using the Icom IC-756 Pro III

Ellen AI7FP, or possibly **Warren NG7G**, will manage the 40M station using the Flex 6400M.

Dan KD7SV will manage the 80/15M station using the Flex 6500.

Each manager will be looking for assistant station managers and operators. If you'd like to get familiar with the radios and logging software, please reach out and volunteer!

As always, we acknowledge that the Radio Club of Tacoma treats Field Day not as a high-stakes contest, but as a picnic with radios.

We're prioritizing training, operator opportunities, and fun over QSO counts. It's important to match our resources to these goals and avoid burning out our volunteers.



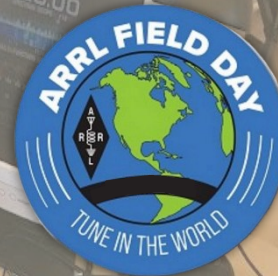
RCT Field Day 2024—Wade **W7ITL** in foreground
In white jacket Dan **KD7SV** & vest Doug **AB7DG**
Photo by Dave **W7UUU**

We'll again be running a 4A station (4 transmitters running on emergency power). The goal is for each station to be capable of operating all modes: phone, CW, and digital (FT8, and *possibly* RTTY). The complication with RTTY is that it essentially requires the use of N1MM and MMTTY for logging and decoding. Integrating this system with the operators and networking can be challenging, and it offers limited return—especially for Randy **WB4SPB**, who ends up doing most of the troubleshooting and setup. Additionally, aside from Gary **WG7X**, our station managers haven't used N1MM before. We may end up running RTTY on just one band or radio to keep things manageable. All of this is to be determined.

W7DK FIELD DAY 2025

PLANNING STAGE

By FD Planner Mike **W7MKE**



W7DK

This year, we'll see changes in the antenna setup.

We now have four AB-577 “rocket launcher” towers, having acquired two from the estate of our late club trustee, Nick **K7MO** (SK). We’re planning a training session on deploying the towers in late May (weather permitting), again hosted at Dave **W7UUU**’s estate—thank you, Dave!

The towers will support monoband Yagis for 10, 15, and 20 meters. The fourth tower will support a 40M inverted-V and a 6M Yagi. The 80/15M station will use a caged 80m dipole and a 15m Yagi. Previously, we used a combination dipole and wire Yagi for 40M. While it’s a solid antenna, it’s very cumbersome to install without lots of helping hands. We’re considering replacing it with either one or two dipoles—one oriented East-West and one North-South—or just a single East-West dipole. The advantage of two dipoles is ease of setup; the downside is potentially reduced performance compared to a Yagi in our most important direction (East).

We'll again be covering the large 20x30-foot operations tent with a dark tarp to reduce daylight glare.

This proved very popular in 2024—before this, viewing computer monitors during the day was nearly impossible.

We plan for each station manager to complete a final (or near-final) integration at the clubhouse by the end of May. Each manager will have access to their assigned radio, monitors, TNCs, keys, computers, and other equipment for operating in all modes. Fortunately, we now have enough radios to support Field Day without needing to disassemble the club’s permanent stations.

Everyone who wants to operate will have the opportunity, though the ability to run long pileups may depend on how many people sign up.



*Photo by Dave **W7UUU***

*Military surplus AB-577 “Rocket Launcher” portable 40-foot tower—one of four owned by the club. In this photo it’s set up and ready to insert tower sections to raise an antenna. Photo from June 2024 at the “Back-40” at **W7UUU**’s place*

Let’s remember: for the Radio Club of Tacoma, Field Day is an exercise in emergency setup and communication, and a chance to enjoy radio with fellow club members—it’s not a race for the most QSOs.

W7DK FIELD DAY 2025

PLANNING STAGE

By FD Planner Mike **W7MKE**



W7DK

We're considering holding operator training sessions

on Thursday evenings, May 22 and May 29, using the Lou Room and the Training Room. We'll set up stations to receive and transmit dummy signals using one of the HF Room radios. These sessions will help operators get comfortable with function keys and exchange protocols. If you plan to operate during Field Day, I highly encourage you to participate. And if you're an experienced hand, please consider serving as an Elmer during training.

Finally, we're hoping to return to Western State Hospital this year, with a site layout similar to previous years. Campers are welcome. Power will be provided by the club's generator, and Mike **W7XH** has again agreed to supervise power distribution.

I'm sure I've forgotten to mention someone—please forgive me. I truly appreciate everyone's help.

73,

Mike – **W7MKE**, 2025 Field Marshal



In memory of my 50-year friend in ham radio,
Nick Winter **K7MO (WA7IVO)** at his 2E
Field Day position in June 2024.

-Dave **W7UUU**



Field Day Location:

Western State Hospital
9601 Steilacoom Blvd. SW
Lakewood, WA 98498

Field day location is not actually inside the hospital entry gate but rather in the Eastern lawn area directly across Steilacoom Blvd. SW from the Fort Steilacoom Park and Playground area.

Note that despite being outside of the hospital facility proper, it is still a secured area. No drone flying or photography of the facility is allowed. No smoking or alcohol allowed. There will be W7DK personnel on site 24 hours a day for the duration of our stay.

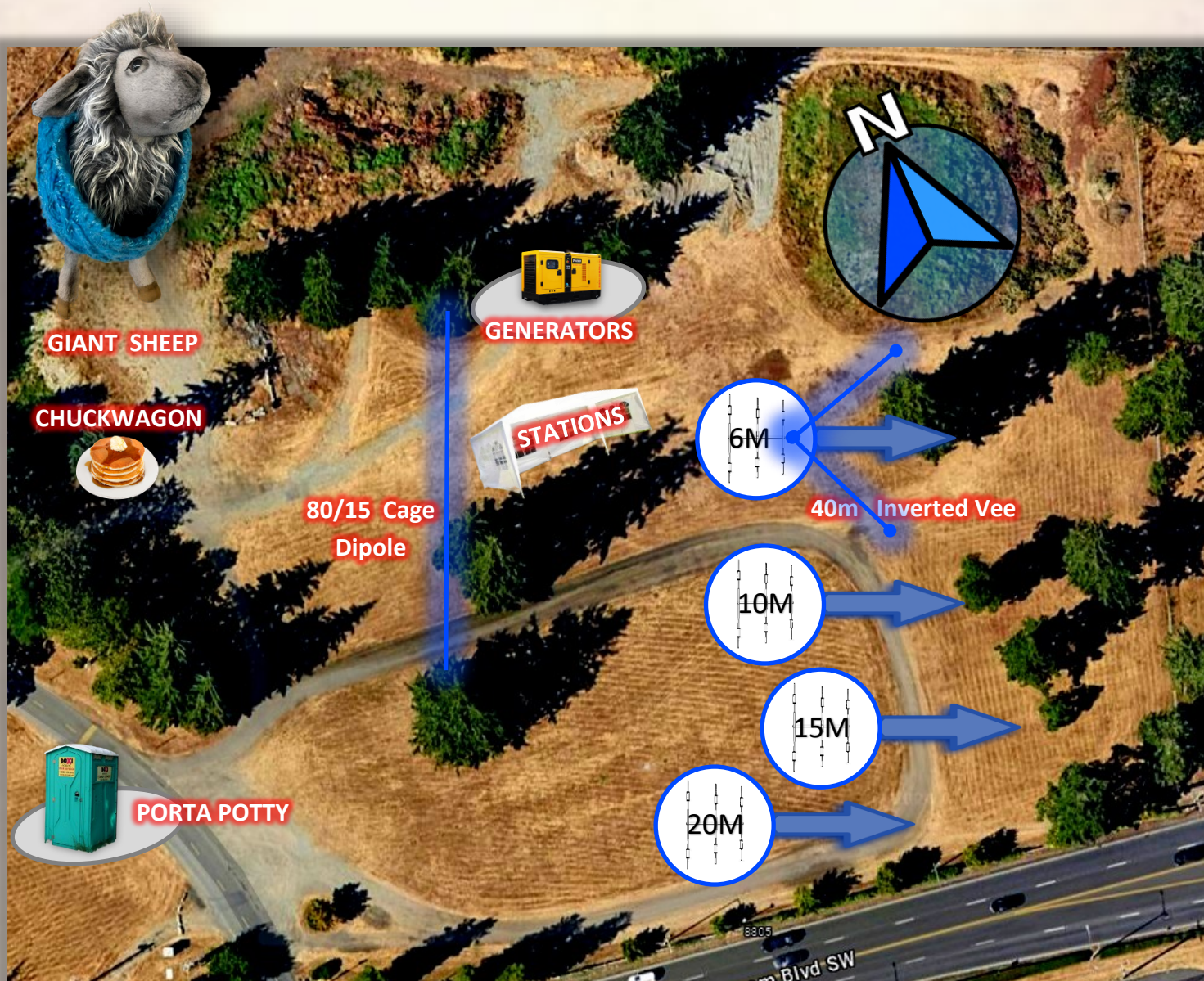
W7DK FIELD DAY 2025

PLANNING STAGE

By FD Planner Mike **W7MKE**



W7DK



Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK 2025 Field Day Antenna Plan



WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL — LAKEWOOD, WA



Disclaimer: This article discusses amateur radio in North Korea, a long-recognized amateur radio DXCC entity. If the topic of the DPRK is upsetting to you, feel free to skip this one.

THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK) or North Korea, is often called The Hermit Kingdom. That monicker oddly enough long pre-dates the 1948 creation of the DPRK. After the division of the two Koreas following WWII, the new highly-secretive regime of Kim Il Sung was the reason for the revival of the expression in the news media and has been used ever since. Note that the official country name is DPRK, not North Korea, as the regime doesn't recognize South Korea—in their ideology, only one true Korea exists—just the one to the north. The DPRK.

Not long after the DPRK became an official country, the [International Telecommunications Union](#) (ITU) granted the ITU Region-3 (Asia) call sign prefix range of P5A to P9Z to the new nation state. Once the ITU established their prefix, it cleared the path for amateurs to theoretically work fellow hams in the country. Finally, in July 1995 the ARRL assigned North

Korea the entity number of 344 and officially recognized North Korea as a DXCC country.

But potential ham radio hobbyists in the DPRK didn't rejoice and run out to apply for licenses and set up stations. Far from it. Amateur radio operation in North Korea is heavily restricted due to the country's stringent control over all forms of communication and information

flow. As a result, the DPRK has never actually issued a P5 call sign to an amateur within the country's borders.

Some reports I found suggest that only 19 actual P5 call signs have been assigned but were only used by governmental officials and never used for

documented legitimate amateur radio contacts.

The DPRK prohibits amateur radio use among its citizens, classifying it as an unauthorized "hobby recreation" activity. Unauthorized radio use is treated as a severe offense, with penalties extending to prison, forced labor camps, or even the rumored "three generation rule" in which three generations of family members are imprisoned for offenses deemed severe. Of course, such punishments can't be confirmed but there's lots of anecdotal evidence that





has been published over the years and it's very likely true.

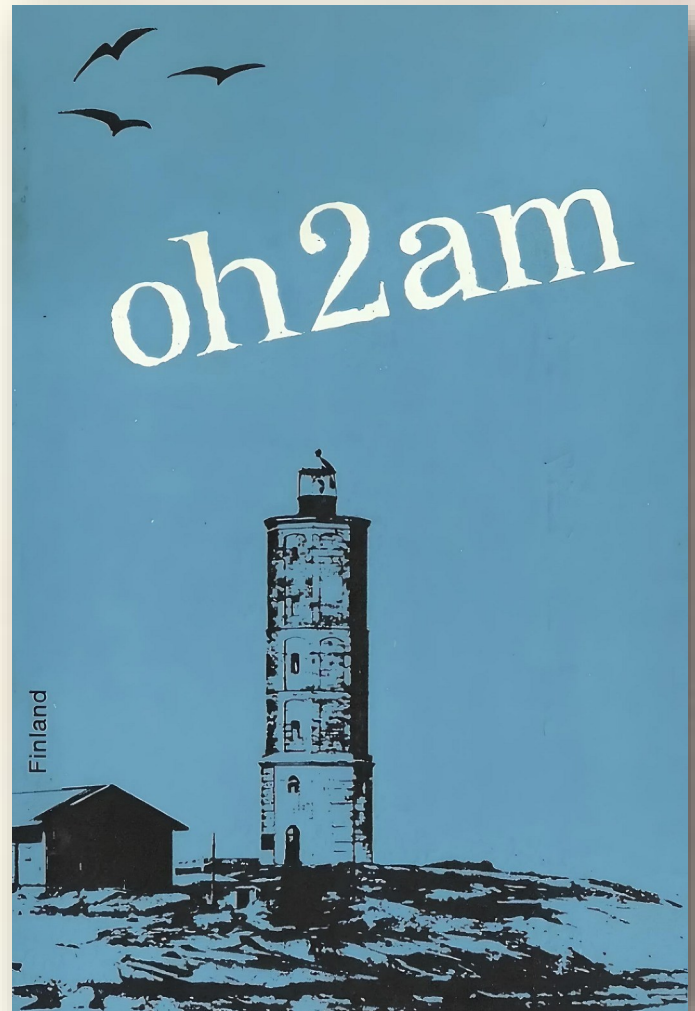
So where does this leave amateur radio in general and the world of DXpeditions? It simply means that getting a P5 contact confirmed in your log is the decades-running Number One sought-after-goal of most of the big DXers in the ham radio world.

But it has been done! Since the DPRK has existed, there have been four successful DXpeditions (of varying levels of success) to the Hermit Kingdom: **P5/OH2AM** in 1995, **P51BH (OH2BH)** in 1999, **P5/4L4FN** in 2001-2002, and **P5/3Z9DX** in 2015. What likely would have been the largest and most successful such mission (**P5DX**) was canceled under very unfortunate circumstances in 2016.

What follows is an outline of each of the four officially sanctioned operations and the results that were achieved. It's important to note that there were a number of reported operating events from P5 in the 1990s, but several were either failed attempts, were unverified, or otherwise disallowed by the ARRL (two examples being **P5RS7**, and **P5/OK1DTG**).

P5/OH2AM MAY 14, 1995

This event marked the first authorized amateur radio operation from inside the DPRK. The team was led by Finnish radio amateur Martti Laine, **OH2BH**, using the **OH2AM** contesting call sign, as part of a Finnish business delegation. Other operators on the team included Kari Leino, **OH2BC** and two, possibly three, other Finnish operators.



1960s era OH2AM contesting group QSL, Martti Laine **OH2BH** as Chairman and Station Trustee. NOT the **P5/OH2AM** QSL card.

Their calls were reported later as Arto Blomberg, **OH2BQ** and Makku Heinonen, **OH2BS**.

The expedition began as a business trip, but ultimately Laine and his colleagues negotiated permission to "demonstrate amateur radio" to the North Korean officials.

Due to the impromptu nature of this ham radio



“demonstration”, it was very short in duration and only resulted in 20 SSB QSO’s, all with stations in Asia. I was not able to find specifics of rigs, antennas or bands, but suffice to say it was most likely a simple dipole, basic transceiver, and probably only on a single band. Very little is known of those 20 stations who were contacted. And of course, only SSB was allowed so that the DPRK security services translators could confirm that the operators weren’t relaying state secrets out of the country!

P51BH (OH2BH) APRIL 1999

Once again, Martti Laine, **OH2BH**, was behind this second attempt at a DXpedition to the Hermit Kingdom. This time, he was the sole operator and again, this event was intended to showcase ham radio to the North Korea officials and further solidify DPRK as a truly accepted DXCC entity in the eyes of the ARRL and the global DX community.



*P51BH DPRK QSL Card for the April 1999 operation headed by Martti Laine, **OH2BH***

Translation: “The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung is with us forever”

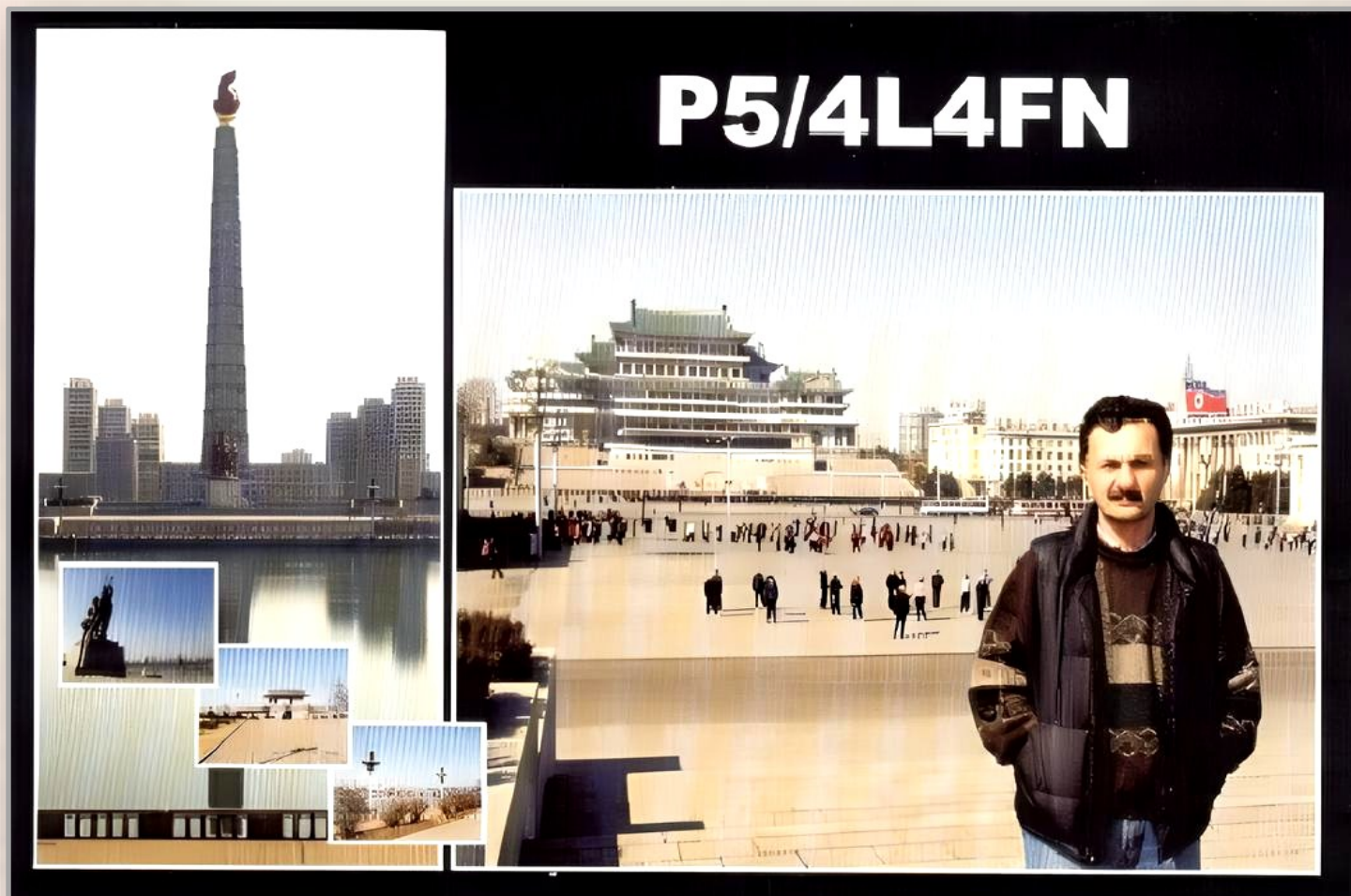


The operation lasted a total of about four hours, resulting in 263 QSOs reported to be via both SSB as well as CW (presumably with DPRK Morse operators on hand to ensure no espionage hanky-panky was going on). As with Laine's first DPRK venture, little can be found regarding radios and antennas. But as with the 1995 event, it's likely it was a very simple setup and many of the contacts were with stations in Asia. QSL cards were managed by Bob Winn,

W5KNE (SK). This was considered a successful event, and paved the way for the largest DXpedition yet to operate from P5 DPRK beginning in 2001.

P5/4L4FN 2001 TO 2002

This stands as the most successful DXpedition to North Korea to date, although the amateur radio aspects of the event were secondary to the mission



*QSL card from the most successful DPRK DX-pedition (activation, really—it wasn't an actual DX-pedition) by Ed Giorgadze, **4L4FN**. More than 16,000 QSOs were confirmed from this event.*



of the operator. Ed Giorgadze, **4L4FN**, from [Georgia](#), was on a professional assignment working for the United Nations [World Food Programme](#) (WFP) in Pyongyang during his time in North Korea from late 2001 until November 2002. His working relationship was not related to radio in any way, but rather was the reason he was in the country in the first place.

While there, he secured oral permission from North Korean authorities to operate his ham radio gear as **P5/4L4FN**. He was able to assemble a 100-watt station with fairly decent antennas, and had the luxury of operating intermittently as his personal time allowed throughout the year. And for the first time, he was allowed to operate not only SSB but also RTTY. CW was allowed by DPRK security but only briefly—17 contacts were made, and on PSK31, a mere 4 were made (imagine being one of only 4 hams in the world to confirm P5 on PSK31!).

Over his year of operation, Ed made 16,194 confirmed contacts, across 167 DXCC entities, with Japan (at 3,952) and the U.S. (at 4,483) being the most frequent. Many of those 16 thousand confirmations earned the operators the ARRL DXCC #1 Honor Roll status, in some cases as the “last one needed”.

Alas, for reasons never published (but likely of a diplomatic nature), Giorgadze was abruptly ordered by the authorities to cease operations in November 2002 and leave the country, never to return.

In my own life as a ham, I’ve only ever met two operators who have a P5 confirmation. Both were the result of this DXpedition.

P5/3Z9DX DECEMBER 2015

This was the 4th and last DXpedition to North Korea, but nothing approaching the **4L4FN** event from 2001. Dom Grzyb, **3Z9DX** received official permission from the DPRK authorities in 2015 for a planned operating event slated for December 20 and 21. Again, 100-watts was approved for the transceiver but this time only SSB was allowed. Bands used were 20, 15, and 10-meters using a tri-band ground-mounted vertical antenna. The location wasn’t ideal—amid high rise buildings in downtown Pyongyang, with noise levels reported as high as 59+30dB at times. Not ideal for any sort of amateur radio operation—especially when SSB is the only option.

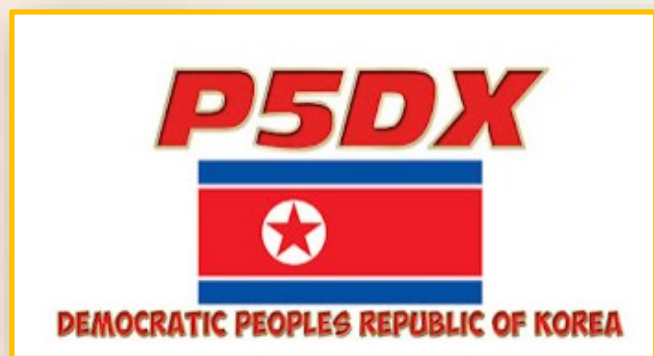
The end result is it was mostly a regional event, garnering 785 QSOs logged, primarily with Asian stations. As with the three prior DXpeditions, DPRK security monitored all of the SSB audio during the contacts. And after the event was over, Grzyb had agreed to surrender all of his equipment to the DPRK authorities upon conclusion. His logs were submitted to the ARRL for DXCC validation—but for the first time in a DPRK DXpedition, pirate stations continued to operate after Grzyb shut down resulting in a large number of disqualified QSOs submitted to the ARRL after the known-departure of **3Z9DX** from North Korea.

Continued on next page



While there are a handful of other rumored and claimed DXpeditions to the DPRK, none have been validated by the ARRL so I won't cover them in this article. A simple web search will turn them up quite readily

P5DX 2016 (CANCELED)



The last and largest attempt at a DXpedition certainly bears mention in this list. Unlike the four previous events, all successful in their own way but mostly just demonstrations, the **P5DX** planned event for 2016 was something altogether different in scale.

The expedition was led by Paul Ewing, **N6PSE** and David Collingham **K3LP** under the banner of the [Intrepid DX Group](#). The team planned to include up to 20 operators from Europe, South American and Oceania, along with 3 Americans.

The project began in 2013 after years of negotiations with the DPRK, including nine visits to the nation and a written invitation from DPRK officials. The team secured a great venue at a new resort, which would ensure full cooperation from officials.

The call sign **P5DX** was approved by the North Korean government, but with the strict admonishment: *no publicity* of any kind was allowed via any medium until the team was in place and on the air.

This was not a cheap project—over \$16,000 worth of radio gear was purchased and shipped, and later a “surprisingly large fee” was demanded by the DPRK authorities. The Intrepid DX Group, to this point privately funded by the team’s members, were forced to seek grants from the major DX foundations in the ham community.

But in the end that financing fell through, and Ewing and Collingham nearly drained their retirement savings to cover the costs resulting from the exorbitant fees being demanded by Pyongyang.

If that wasn’t bad enough, the last straw was the breach of the mandatory security by unknown members of the ham community. Word somehow leaked out and started spreading around the DX community, about the “massive DXpedition to P5”. It wasn’t long before it reached the DPRK. As a result, Ewing and Cunningham, among others, were denied entry and this led to the forced cancellation of the entire event at the 11th hour.

Had it succeeded, **P5DX** would easily have been the first large-scale DXpedition to North Korea with indisputable on-site proof and validity. It’s truly one of the most devastating blows to the DX world in the history of ham radio. The failure highlighted the difficulty and risk of venturing to politically sensitive entities where funding, diplomacy, and access are tightly intertwined.

Perhaps there will be another such effort one of these days—but it likely won’t be any time soon and it’s very possible the **P5DX** effort might be the last. In the meantime, those needing the most-sought DX entity in ham radio will just have to wait for that chance for another time. *-Dave W7UUU*

GENERAL MEETING

Eagles Aerie #2933 South Tacoma



Meeting Door Greeter Leonard **KA7NWF** signs in
BJ **KO7T** over a piping-hot pizza



Someone robbed the local bakery it seems and
brought in a pile of decadent yummy cupcakes!!



Mike **W7MKE**, Al **N7OMS**, and Doug **AB7DG**



Good turnout—the planed Meshtastic program was a big draw
for not only RCT members but folks from other clubs.

*All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU***



President Adam **W2NCC** and Secretary Gary **WG7X**
gear up to start the meeting



Drew (not yet a ham), Ted **KJ7KPI**, and Chuck **AC7QN**
were all attending to learn more about Meshtastic



Jiro **KW6A** shows off his winning raffle ticket as he
accepts his prize—an ARRL Antenna Book from
Leonard **KA7NWF**



Rachel (non-ham guest) accepts her raffle prize
from Leonard **KA7NWF**

*All photos this page provided by
Dave **W7UUU***

GENERAL MEETING

Eagles Aerie #2933 South Tacoma



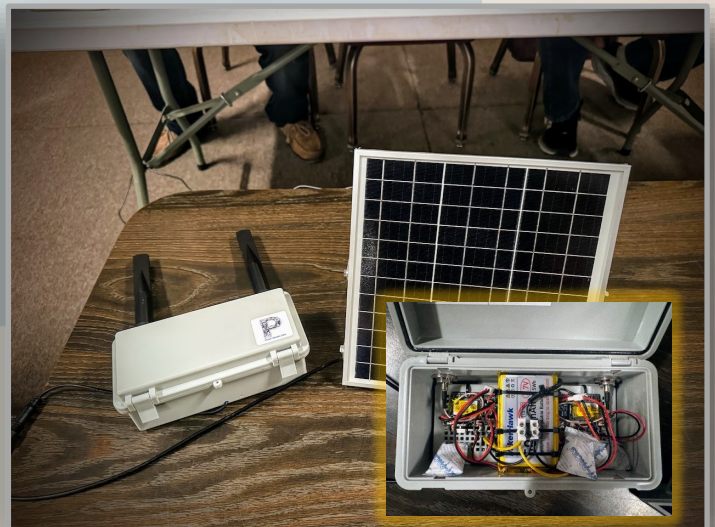
Program presenter guest Adam Melton **KK4GKF** gave a fantastic presentation on Meshtastic & LoRa concepts



Last year, Adam founded www.PugetMesh.org to support the growth of mesh networks (ARDEN, Meshtastic, etc.)



As an unexpected gift to the Radio Club of Tacoma, Adam **KK4GKF** donated a complete Meshtastic node with 10-watt solar panel for the club to install on the tower and join the local network, as received by President Adam **W2NCC**



Truly a generations donation—the inset shows the build quality that Adam put into the RAK transceiver enclosure with 10-day battery supply, recharged by the 10-watt solar pane. Thanks Adam!

All photos this page provided by

*Dave **W7UUU***

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

Holy Grail? Unicorn Tears?



MANY YEARS AGO I PURCHASED A BIG BOX OF

Heathkit parts and pieces, much of which has long-since been scattered far and wide. But one of the bits in the box has stayed with me for 40 years, but went missing for a very long time. For years I would mention this little item in internet forums, at ham-fests, or with club members—ALL of whom said “sorry but you’re mistaken—nothing like that ever existed”. Except that it did! And I just “re-found it”.

So what is it I’m taking about? It’s a tiny plastic dual-lens magnifier that at least once, was included in a kit by Heathkit for assisting in reading resistor color codes and values on small capacitors. I say “once” because no one has ever corroborated this story nor have I ever seen another magnifier like this one. There had to be more—but maybe not.

My best guess is that in perhaps the very late 1940s or early 1950s, before the passing of Heath Co. CEO Howard Anthony, these little magnifiers were included in the parts bag. Anthony was the man who took the Heath company from building airplane kits (called the Parasol) to selling electronic kits (starting with the 5” oscilloscope in October 1947). The earli-

est kits didn’t include step-by-step instructions—merely a schematic. There were no master parts lists published—builders just got a bag of parts and the diagram of what solders to what. So it’s possible that while these little magnifiers may well have been included in the parts bag, there’s little to no documentation of the fact because the manuals were nowhere nearly as detailed as in later years.

I asked “One of the Hams at Heath” Terry Perdue K8TP if he knew of it, and he said, “I remember having one of those for years. I can’t imagine where I would have gotten it if not from Heath. If it wasn’t packed with a kit, it might have been one of the items in a beginner’s tool assortment they offered”. Once the kit was built, it was likely tossed in a drawer and never used again. I’m sure *very few* were saved.

So maybe someone reading this knows the real back story on this little piece of Heath ephemera. Or maybe I DO have a “one-off” and it really is a Holy Grail or on the order of Unicorn Tears after all!

-Dave W7UUU



Photos by Dave W7UUU



RCT Bulletin Board

Posted notes and other important stuff

Here's a **useful tip** when reading the Bark: if you want to view a link, "right click" > "Open link in new window"... that way you won't lose your place in the Bark!

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Logger's Bark does not use ChatGPT or other AI creation sites to *write* articles. Sometimes graphics are AI generated out of need for license-free images, but NEVER is the text... we don't allow any AI written article submissions ■ -editor

Last month's Hidden Object:



On Page 62, in the Bakelite article—in the box seats above the man's bald head



Last Month's Hidden Word:
Variometer

It was hidden on page 79 in the Hamfests calendar section. See if you can find this month's Hidden Word and win some W7DK & QRZ stickers mailed directly to you!



RETURN TO
HOME PAGE





HUGE THANKS TO Mr. Bruce Horn, WA7BNM for publishing his "Contest Calendar" for all these many years... a truly wonderful resource for finding virtually every ham radio contest on Earth that might be happening, in most any mode and most any region in the world. Follow the link to take you to the site, then sort through the various options to find the

specifics of every upcoming event. For now, here's the **WA7BNM** Contest Calendar for the this month. Click the calendar below to visit Bruce's site directly.



May 2025

+ AGCW QRP/QRP Party	1300Z-1900Z, May 1
+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW	0001Z, May 3 to 2359Z, May 4
+ RCC Cup	0300Z-0859Z, May 3
+ SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge	0600 local, May 3 to 2359 local, May 4
+ ARI International DX Contest	1200Z, May 3 to 1159Z, May 4
+ 7th Call Area QSO Party	1300Z, May 3 to 0700Z, May 4
+ Indiana QSO Party	1500Z, May 3 to 0300Z, May 4
+ Delaware QSO Party	1700Z, May 3 to 2359Z, May 4
+ New England QSO Party	2000Z, May 3 to 2359Z, May 4
+ MIE 33 Contest	2300Z, May 4 to 0300Z, May 5
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 6
+ VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 10 to 1200Z, May 11
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, May 10 to 2359Z, May 11
+ CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 10 to 1159Z, May 11
+ 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 12
+ NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, May 15
+ NZART Sangster Shield Contest	0800Z, May 17 to 1100Z, May 18
+ EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 17 to 1200Z, May 18
+ His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 17 to 1200Z, May 18
+ Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z, May 17 to 0200Z, May 18
+ Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 17 to 0200Z, May 18
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, May 18 to 0100Z, May 19
+ CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 24 to 2359Z, May 25
+ QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint	0000Z-0100Z, May 26
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, May 28
+ PODXS 070 Club Three Day Weekend Contest	0000Z, May 30 to 2359Z, Jun 1



Click Calendar to visit online

WA7BNM Contest Calendar data used with permission

Background Image
Source [LINK](#)

THE W7DK ELMER BOARD

Do you have a skill or tool to help new hams?



YOU! YES YOU! Do YOU have a skill you could pass on to new amateur radio operators? Do you possess a skill or piece of gear that you're willing to share with others to fix antenna problems, diagnose noise issues, drive a ground rod, teach Morse, help teach technical topics? If the answer is YES you too could be a W7DK Elmer!! Let any

officer know what your skills are or how you could help new hams get a leg up on the hobby. And if you're one of those already on the list, are there any changes we should be aware of? If so please hit the email address (found bottom of page on the right) and let us know so we can update the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma "Elmer Board".

NEW HAMS OR MEMBERS: If you are looking for help, and NEED AN ELMER to help guide your way, use this table! Find the skill you need on the left, then look for an Elmer Provider of that skill on the right and reach out to them. ALL of these Elmer's have committed to helping so please don't hesitate.

ELMER ("MENTOR") BOARD

Do you need help with some area of ham radio?

List of members' areas of interest:

1. Technical questions, Classes
2. Help with Morse Code
3. License Examinations
4. Antenna and Station Planning
5. Antenna and Tower Erection
6. Buying Equipment (new or used)
7. Equipment Repair
8. Understanding and Using Your Gear
9. DXing and Contests
10. Club and ARRL Activities
11. Using Test Equipment
12. IRLP, Digital, SDR, APRS, WinLink, etc.
13. Basics of Electronics—how things work

Current as of January 2025

Name/Call Sign/Phone Number/Topic:

Adam **W2NCC** 360-870-7894 (4, 5, 6, 7, 11)
 Dave **N7HT** 253-363-1692 (1, 2, 4, 6, 8)
 Dave **W7UUU** (253-820-0890 (2, 4, 6, 9)
 Al **N7OMS** 253-495-9068 (10, 12)
 Mike **W7XTZ** 253-405-8095 (6, 8, 10)
 Stephen **AD7AB** 253-212-9437 (1, 3, 4, 12)
 Randy **WB4SPB** 253-761-9391 (2)
 Phil **K7PIA** 253-307-4781 (9, 10, 12)

Are you an RCT member with skills to offer?

Please let any officer know and we can add you!

Note: Providers or users of the Elmer Board must be local to the Radio Club of Tacoma. This is a local club service for our local members only. Thank you!

COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

I'VE BEEN A CW OPERATOR MY WHOLE HAM LIFE.

At the age of 14, I built my first electronic keyer using plans from an old edition of the ARRL Handbook. It used a pair of 12AU7 tubes as I recall. For a paddle, I made one in the school wood shop, using a hack saw blade as the metal keying arm.

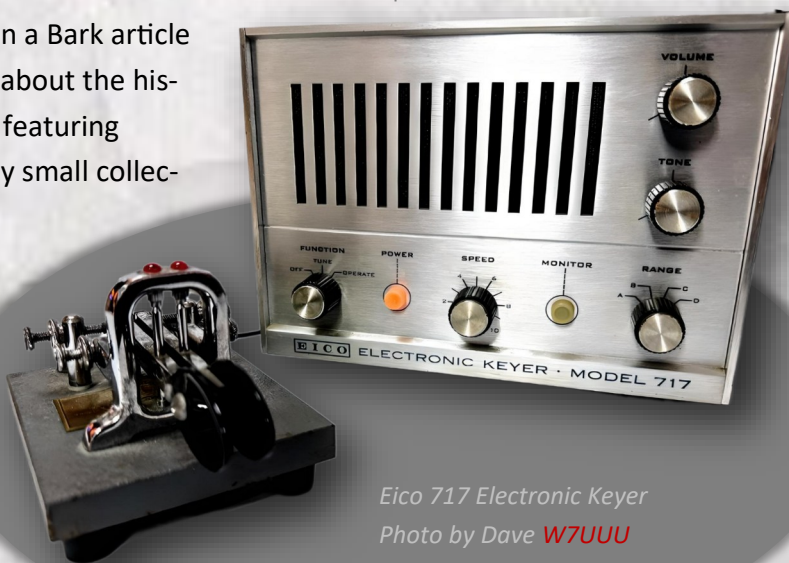
That's when I first fell in love with keyers in general, and over the years I've collected a number of them. I hope to run a Bark article in the coming months all about the history of electronic keyers, featuring some of the ones from my small collection.

But one I never had recently came into my possession—the Eico model 717—one of the coolest keyers ever sold, in the eyes of an “electronic keyer geek” like me.

As tube-type keyers go, it's more or less similar in dimensions to the competition in that it's quite large (roughly 8x8x6). Needless to say that's a result of the chassis required to support six tubes and the power transformer to run them! Given the 717 was first sold in 1968, Eico was pretty late to the game offering a tube keyer during the time that solid state keyers were becoming commonplace. The Heathkit HD-10 was a solid state keyer with much the same function as the Eico 717, and came out three years before!

But the Eico 717 really struck a chord with hams based on its very cool brushed-aluminum cabinet. Designed to match the Eico 753 transceiver, it also looked great paired with just about any rig.

The 717 had a couple interesting features—one being the four speed ranges: Position A being 3 to 8 words per minute (WPM), position B is 7 to 18 WPM, position C is 17-40 WPM, and D covers 38 to 75 WPM. That's kind of an odd distribution in the sense that a more typical “middle range” would be something like 15 to 30 WPM. It's a little awkward how they broke out the various speeds.



Eico 717 Electronic Keyer
Photo by Dave W7UUU

The other unique feature is the reed relay keying output.

Many early tube keyers used either a clunky mechanical relay or a thyratron tube as an electronic switch. The former didn't support fast keying well, and the latter could have a tough time switching some types of transmitters. The reed relay used in the Eico 717 was in fact its most expensive single part, and allowed for extremely fast keying speeds (up to 78 WPM—that's *fast!*) and more importantly, allowed for keying just about any type of transmitter: grid block, cathode keyed, or other schemes that were used for CW key-

COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

ing over the years. Most solid-state keyers rely upon a transistor to handle the keying of the transmitter, and cannot handle some types of keying circuits due to high voltages that may be present. The Eico 717 could key just about anything.

There are some features I don't care for however—there are no controls for “Ratio” or “Weight”. Ratio sets the length of dots and dashes—using a fixed 3:1 ratio. But some operators might want a slightly different ratio—say 3.5:1 as an example. And lacking a “weight” control (which controls the overall duty cycle relationship between dots, dashes, and the space in between without affecting ratio) makes the Eico 717 potentially more difficult to use with some older transmitters that may have sluggish keying characteristics. I always like a keyer with a weight control due to an elaborate keying relay system I use in my own boat anchor shack.

But aside from these fairly minor issues, the Eico 717 really is a delightful keyer to use in every other aspect. Very similar in performance and feel to the more well-known Hallicrafters HA-1 T.O. keyer from 1960.

-Dave W7UUU

NEW FOR THE CW MAN!



EICO 717 ELECTRONIC KEYSER

- Accurately keys any CW transmitter with perfect machine-like Morse Code.
- A perfect electronic and esthetic match to the EICO 753 3-band Transceiver.

Kit \$59.95

Wired \$89.95

An always-welcome accessory for the CW ham—the fully automatic 717 Electronic Keyer provides self-completing clean-cut dots, dashes and spaces accurately timed and proportioned from 3 to 75 WPM in four overlapping switch-selected ranges, with vernier control of all speeds within each range. Because the output is via a high-speed dry-reed relay, having 25 VA-rated contacts, the 717 can simply attach to the key terminals of any type CW transmitter. The internal audio oscillator and 3" x 5" speaker, with variable tone and volume, keyed in parallel with the reed relay, enable aural monitoring of transmissions — also permit the 717 to act as a code practice oscillator. Plugging into rear panel headphone jack disconnects internal speaker.

■ Automatically makes dashes equal in time to 3 dots and sets the correct one dot spacing in a series of dots or dashes. ■ Automatically self-completes: once a dot or dash is begun, it becomes impossible to “break” the character. ■ Aural and front panel lamp monitoring. ■ Dot/Space Ratio — 1:1 electronically timed to within 2 milliseconds at all speeds. ■ Dash/Dot Ratio — 3:1 electronically timed to within 2 milliseconds at all speeds.

SPECIFICATIONS

5 tubes, 2 silicon rectifiers; 100-130 VAC, 50-60Hz, 40 watts. SIZE (HWD): 5½" x 3" x 8¼". WGT.: 9 lbs.

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

The BUD GIMIX Wavemeter



By W7UUU

BEFORE THE DAYS OF HAMS OWNING FREQUENCY

counters, VNA devices, or Antenna Analyzers, the device called a Wavemeter could be found in just about every ham shack in the world. Specifically, an "absorption wavemeter". This is a device that consists of a simple tunable resonant circuit using a variable capacitor and an inductor—when in the presence of RF, a small panel light indicator glows when the resonant frequency of the transmitter is approached. At the brightest point, the pointer of the dial will indicate approximately what frequency is being transmitted.

This was a very important tool in the earlier days of amateur radio. Many simpler transmitters of the day could easily be misadjusted during tune-up resulting in the wrong frequency being output! For example, a transmitter using an 80m crystal cut for say 3523 KHz in the 80m band could be mistakenly tuned to the second harmonic, putting out a strong signal at 7046 KHz—exactly double! An absorption wavemeter like the Bud GIMIX GX-79 would be used during the tuning process to make certain that the 80m frequency was the one being peaked in the transmitter and not the 40m signal. Or vice-versa.

The GIMIX could also be used to monitor the transmitted signal by plugging in headphones, or as a signal-strength indicator by plugging in a milliammeter. Other simple tests could be performed as well.

Many manufacturers sold absorption wavemeters, and military surplus units were very common as well in the reseller's catalogs post WWII. But the device was so simple that many hams simply built their own, often just using parts from the junkbox. All that's needed is a suitable coil, a small variable capacitor, a #47 or similar bulb, and a box. A simple circuit to build one can be found [HERE](#).

-Dave W7UUU



BUD GIMIX Wavemeter
on loan from Jim W7VK—Photos by Dave W7UUU



BUD GIMIX GX-79

Here is a multi-purpose unit, one of the functions of which is to enable you to judge whether you are operating within the assigned amateur bands. It is an absorption type wave-meter covering the 10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meter bands. A handy switch permits easy selection. No additional coils are needed as one coil does the work on all the bands.

A pair of ear-phones plugged into the 'phone jack will convert the unit into a monitor.

It can be used as a field strength meter when link-coupled to a small pickup antenna.

When placed in the field of an amplifier the GIMIX will indicate complete neutralization.

If a milliammeter is plugged into the meter jack, the unit becomes a carrier shift indicator.

Price \$9.00 amateur net

See the Bud Frequency Calibrator and the Bud Gimix at your distributor today

THE WAY BACK PHOTO BOOTH

Highlighted photos from the club's past

Researched & Compiled by the Dave W7UUU



Archive Photo



IF THIS PHOTO LOOKS FAMILIAR, it's because I did in fact run it once before last year. It's one of my all-time faves of the W7DK photo archives, just in the nostalgia it evokes of an earlier time in amateur radio. It was taken at the W7DK Ham Fair event in July 1970. They are all attending a "Code Proficiency Test". **But what is different is** that in February, my good friend "with the memory of an elephant" Nick Winter **K7MO** in one of our many Zoom sessions identified two of the young hams in this photo. Alas, Nick passed away on March 6th, just a few weeks later, so this marks the last time his amazing memory helped me ID the 538 photos in my "W7DK scanned photos archive" - photos I scanned back in 2013 or so (originals returned to the club ages ago—now stored away in an archive somewhere). The young fellow with glasses in the middle is Jim Kossack **W7LS** (**WA7KTD** back then). And across from him is Gary Kohtalah **WA7NTF** (**K7EK** now). Maybe Jim and Gary will see this and help put more names to faces. I'm glad for all the time Nick and I were able to spend in hours-long video calls IDing hams in the old photos... many hours of fun and amazement at Nick's memories of the past.

MIGHTY DK! QSO REPORT

Reporting all the HF QSO action from the club



W7DK

EACH MONTH in the Bark, the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. [Saturday Open House](#), especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you. It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of The Mighty DK to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the Bark! (Don't forget to *enter your call sign as the operator* into our logging program.) ■ -editor

Clubhouse QSOs during this period:

NAME	CALL	QSOs
Mike	W7MKE	72
Julie	W7JUL	26
Nathan	WA7BUG	17
Phil	KC7PS	15
Mike	W7XH	12
Gary	WG7X	5



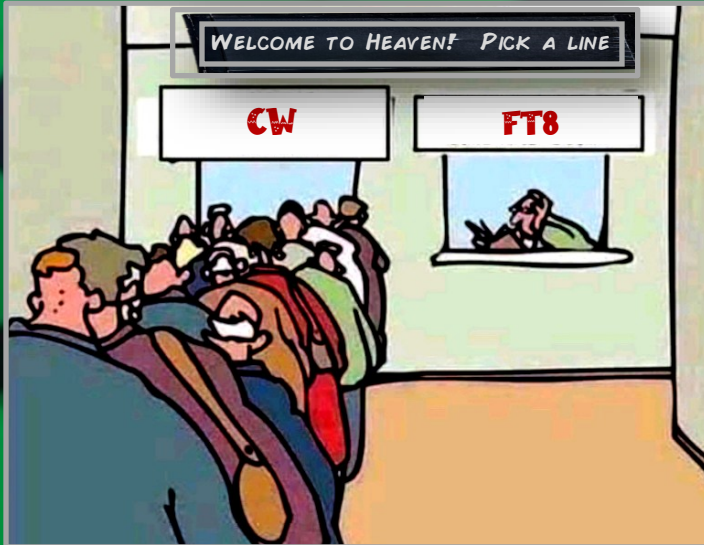
Above: HF Room Flex 6600 & Mercury III

Below: HF Room Icom IC-7610 & KPA-500



Photos this page provided by

Dave **W7UUU**



HOW'S DX?

DXpeditions and Notable DX operations



WEB

NG3K Upcoming DXpedition Calendar



May						
2025 May04	2025 May26	Cape Verde Is	D4	M00XO	TDDX 20250220	By DF2WO as D44TWO and KN6ZZI as D44ZZI fm Ponta Achada; 160-10m, incl 60m; SSB CW FT8 FT4
2025 May07	2025 May14	Guernsey	GU6EFW	ON6EF (B/d)	ON6EF 20250216	By ON6EF ON1BN ON7TA ON6VJ ON9DJ ON7VM ON4AML fm IOTA-114; HF incl WARC bands; SSB CW + digital
2025 May13	2025 May18	Honduras	HR4	PY8WW OQRS	OPDX 20250213	By PY8WW fm Tiger I (IOTA NA-060); 40-10m; CW SSB + digital
2025 May22	2025 Jun01	Palau	T8	See Info	OPDX 20250228	By JF1GHX as T88FG and JK1SZX as T88SG fm Koror I (IOTA OC-009); 160-6m; SSB FT8; QSL T88FG via LoTW or JF1GHX direct, T88SG via JK1SZX Buro
2025 May27	2025 Jun02	Niue	E6RS <small>NEW</small>	LoTW	DXW.Net 20250322	By ZL1RS fm Makefu; 6m, perhaps 10m; FT8 EME; QSL via ZL1RS
2025 May27	2025 Jun02	St Barthelemy	FJ	LoTW	DXW.Net 20250213	By NP4G as FJ/NP4G; HF; POTA activation BL-0001; holiday style operation

Click anywhere on the table above to visit Bill's site directly—the hyperlinks will be active there.

Courtesy Bill Feidt, **NG3K**
used with permission

Homebrew & Kits corner

RADIO HOMEBREW PROJECTS BOTH LARGE & SMALL



FOR THIS MONTH'S HOMEBREW & KITS SECTION I wanted to feature a really fun little kit that can be built by just about anyone with the most basic of soldering skills. It's the [Elenco AM-780K](#) Two IC AM Radio kit. In late February I had some points earned in my Amazon Prime account, and feeling flush, decided to spend them on something fun to while away a couple hours at the workbench building something fun and easy, while providing fodder for another Bark article. So here it is!

I got mine for zero outlay, using my points. But if you have to buy it, it's still reasonable considering the quality of the kit, at \$24.99 (plus tax, and of course shipping if you're not a Prime member or don't buy on "Prime Day" etc. to get free shipping).

Elenco kits have been around a very long time—founded in 1972. They have a very solid reputation for selling quality, easy-to-build electronic kits of all kinds. One of the most endearing facets of their product offering is their manuals: they are written very much in the style and depth of Heathkit manuals of old.

Recently, the Radio Club of Tacoma held a very successful "basic soldering class" which featured the [Elenco SP-1 "Practical Soldering Project Kit"](#), which for less than \$14, is an out-

standing introduction to kit building, soldering, and following assembly instructions.

The AM-780K is a basic AM radio kit. It uses a chip called a TA7642 which is an RF amplifier and detector all housed in a TO-92 package just like a transistor, with only three leads emerging from the body.



Photo by Dave W7UUU

Homebrew & Kits corner

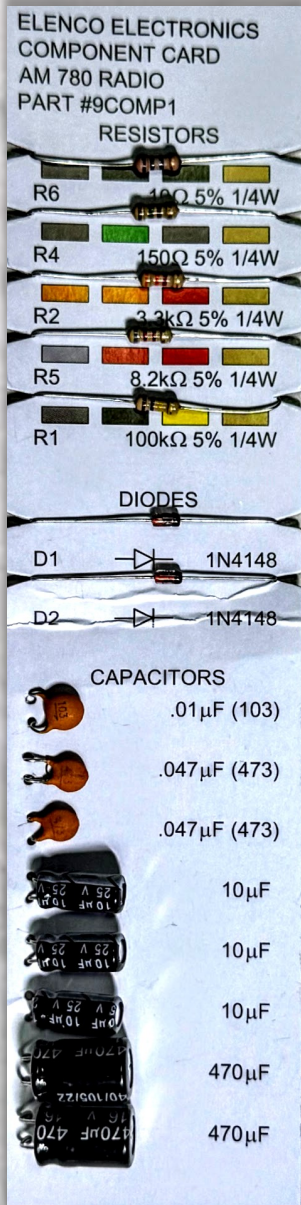
RADIO HOMEBREW PROJECTS BOTH LARGE & SMALL



This chip output then feeds into a very common LM386 audio amplifier chip in a standard circuit to easily drive a small 8-Ohm speaker (included) to full volume. The TA7642 only requires a tuned input circuit (typically a 370- μ H inductor and 250 pF variable capacitor) to cover from 525 to 2136 KHz (covering the entire AM broadcast band as well as

160-meters!). In the kit, the coil is pre-assembled and is a pretty standard “ferrite loopstick” as is typically found in AM radios—dual coil sections center-tapped, with a 250 pF mini variable tuning capacitor (which I must add, despite being of the “plastic” variety, is extremely well-made and of high quality).

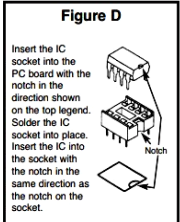
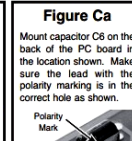
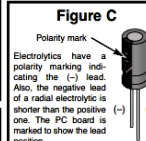
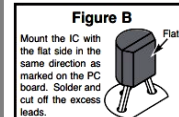
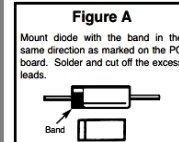
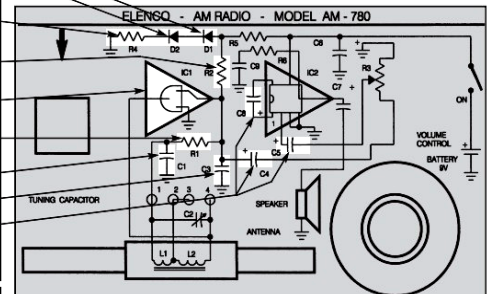
All of the through-hole components are conveniently fitted to a cardboard strip (photo at left) with associated values. For myself, I always like to test each part as I install it, using a [Peak LCR40 automatic parts tester](#) just to make sure the value is as specified (yellow test gizmo in photo at right). But that’s not really necessary if you have good eyes!



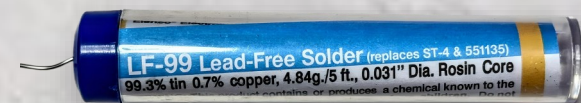
ASSEMBLE COMPONENTS TO THE PC BOARD

Place a check mark ☒ in the box provided next to each step to indicate that the step is completed.

- ☐ D1 - 1N4148 Diode
- ☐ D2 - 1N4148 Diode (see Figure A)
- ☐ R4 - 150 Ω 5% 1/4W Res. (brown-green-brown-gold)
- ☐ R2 - 3.3k Ω 5% 1/4W Res. (orange-orange-red-gold)
- ☐ IC1 - 484 / 7642 IC (see Figure B)
- ☐ R1 - 100k Ω 5% 1/4W Res. (brown-black-yellow-gold)
- ☐ C1 - 0.01 μ F Discap (103)
- ☐ C3 - 0.047 μ F Discap (473)
- ☐ C5 - 10 μ F Electrolytic
- ☐ C4 - 10 μ F Electrolytic
- ☐ C8 - 10 μ F Electrolytic (see Figure C)



Very “Heathkit-like” manuals make assembly a breeze



Good quality lead-free solder included! More than needed!



Beginning assembly—really easy to follow along with the manual.

I use a Peak LCR tester to check every part before installing.

All photos by Dave W7UUU

Homebrew & Kits corner

RADIO HOMEBREW PROJECTS BOTH LARGE & SMALL



My experience with Elenco kits over the years has been consistently excellent. Frankly, the biggest reason I use the Peak LCR testing device is to save my eyes from trying to read the tiny nomenclature or color bands of today's super-small components.

Total assembly time was maybe an hour or hour and a half... not sure really because I had the 7th District Traffic "Noontime Net" playing in the background on the Collins 75A-4 receiver, while it was loudly pouring down rain on the shack skylight. Who really tracks time in these kinds of things?

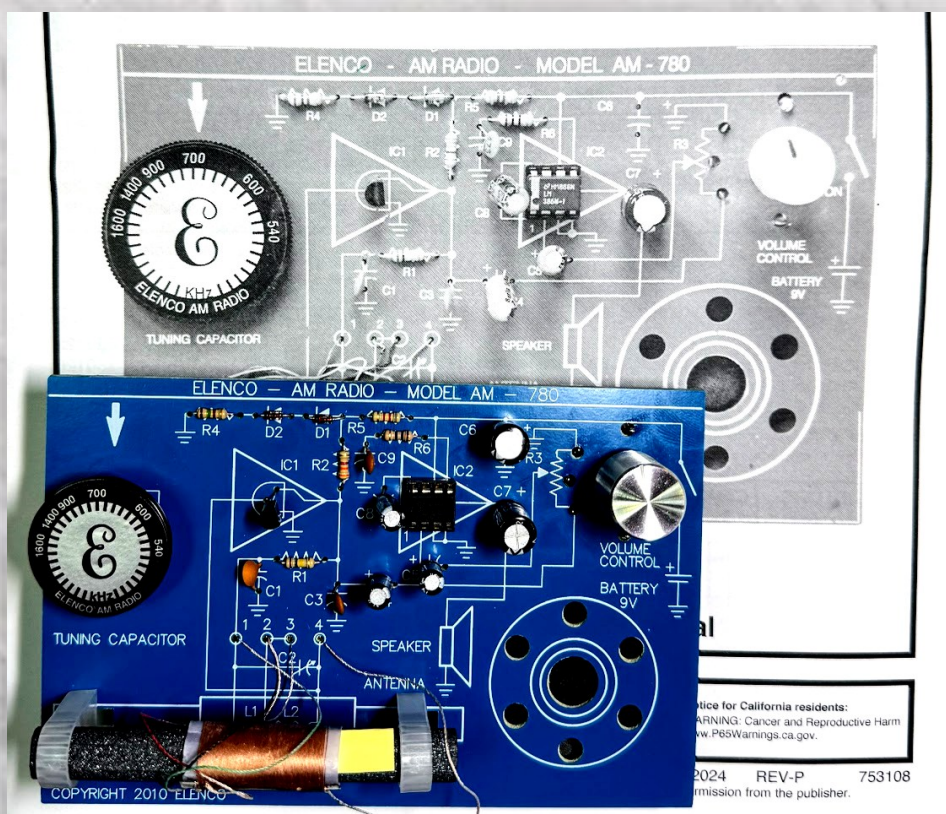
Once built, it was time, according to the manual, to "align the receiver" (sort of a silly step really—it simply involves turning the trimmer cap on the plastic variable cap to a predetermined position per the manual—it takes 3 seconds!). The capacitor was already tuned to where it was required—so no "alignment" really required.

After that it was "apply power" and listen. But when I did that, I was aghast! No output heard! Only when I wriggled the circuit board just a certain way did I hear sounds... am radio sounds. Hmmm... I kept

flexing the board in my hands, trying to isolate the problem. And sure enough, I was rewarded with quickly identifying a cold solder joint at the output of the AM detector chip into the amplifier! A quick treatment with the soldering iron fixed that, and AM stations exploded from the speaker. It was pretty amazing (once I walked out of the shack to the open sky outdoors) how many local stations were audible and clear.

If you're looking for a fun kit to build or better still, share with fellow hams or even your kids or grandkids, the Elenco AM-780K can't be beat for the price. Very fun kit to build!

-Dave W7UUU



Completed AM radio kit—fully operational—fun kit for beginners or experienced folks alike!

AROUND THE SHACK & SHOP

Little tips for when you get a round TUIT!



ONE OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL SHACK AND SHOP items that I can think of (that I have personally bought and can vouch for!) is a supply of clamp-on ferrite RF/EMI noise-suppressor cable clips. I can't tell you how many times I've used these little gems to fix an "RF getting into something it shouldn't get into" sort of situation.

I always make sure I have a pretty fair assortment of these things on hand.

They work on a very simple principle: they convert high-frequency electro-magnetic noise into heat through magnetic absorption. When common-mode noise currents flow through a cable, they generate concentric magnetic fields around the conductor (which then enters your computer and causes all manner of bleeps and bloops as it scrambles your USB signals!).

The clamp-on ferrite core's high permeability captures these fields, and causes the energy from the "noise" to be dissipated as thermal energy due to magnetic losses. And don't worry—unless you are talking huge RF energy, the heat generated is minute. All you will likely notice is your USB devices no longer go offline constantly when transmitting.

The clamps can be added along a suspected cable until the interference is stopped. Sometimes it will take more than one clamp-on ferrite filter to do the job—it might even take several!

But over the years, I've never had a USB issue from RF that can't be tackled with sufficient use of ferrite filters. And remember: if you use larger sizes, the effect is greater, and you can even loop the USB cable through them for a turn or two which can really make a difference.

Filters such as these are all over the internet for pretty cheap prices. The examples at the left are what I have used for years—that can be had for around \$10 (plus tax and shipping, for non-Prime members) or thereabouts. This particular assortment includes 20 clamp-on filters. I try to keep a pretty good supply of these on hand at all times. You never know when you might do some new shack setup involving a computer in your "RF space" that requires a little help keeping the RFI from causing problems. Click on either photo to see these items on Amazon—no affiliation—it's just the ones I typically use myself.



-Dave W7UUU

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

RADIO ADS FROM 75 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

W7UUU

INVEST IN VERSATILITY
... THE NEW HRO-50

all the features
you want in
one receiver ...

All the time-tested HRO features PLUS these 14 new features you asked for:

1. Direct frequency reading linear scale with a single range in view at a time.
2. Provision for crystal calibrator switched from panel.
3. Variable antenna trimmer.
4. Built-in power supply with heat resistant barrier.
5. Front-of-panel oscillator compensation control.
6. B.F.O. switch separated from B.F.O. frequency control.
7. Provision for NFM adaptor inside receiver, switched from front panel.
8. Dimmer control for dial and meter illumination.
9. Miniature tubes in front end and high frequency oscillator.
10. Output transformer with 8 and 500 ohm terminals.
11. Oscillator circuits not disabled when receiver in "send" position.
12. High-fidelity push-pull audio amplifier.
13. Phono input.
14. Accessory socket for Select-a-Ject.

No wonder the HRO-50 is the versatile, more-for-your-money buy of the year!

\$335

(loss speaker and including coils AA, B, C and D)
slightly higher west of the Rockies



SPECIFICATIONS

FREQ. RANGE: 50-430 kc., 480 kc. — 35 mc.
TUBE COMPLEMENT: 6BA6, 1st r. f.; 6BA6, 2nd r. f.; 6BE6, mixer, 6C4, h. f. oscillator; 6K7, 1st i. f.; 6K7, 2nd i. f.; 6H6 det. & a.v.c.; 6H6, a.n.l.; 6SJ7, 1st audio; 6SN7, phase splitter and S-meter amp.; 6V6 (2) p.p. audio; 5V4G, rect.; 6J7, b. f. o.; 6BZ, voll. reg. Accessories: Crystal Calibrator, 6AQ5; NFM Adaptor, 6SK7, i. f. amp., 6H6, ratio det.; Select-a-Ject, 12AT7 (2).

POWER INPUT: 115/230 V. 50/60 cycles A.C.

POWER OUTPUT: 8 watts undistorted, push-pull amplifier fidelity ± 1 db 50-15,000 cycles.

SENSITIVITY: 1 microvolt or better at 6 db sig./noise.

SELECTIVITY: Variable from 15 kc. overall to about 400 cycles at 40 db.

DRIFT: Negligible after warm-up.

CALIBRATION: Direct frequency reading.

ACCESSORIES

100/100 kc. calibrator, \$19.95; NFM-50 adaptor, \$16.95; SOJ-3, \$24.95.



COIL SETS

(Specify rack or table model, when ordering.)

HRO-50E	900—2000 kc.	Net \$16.35
HRO-50F	400—960 kc.	Net \$16.35
HRO-50G	120—430 kc.	Net \$21.95
HRO-50H	100—200 kc.	Net \$24.05
HRO-50J	50—100 kc.	Net \$20.90
HRO-50A	14—30 Mc.	Net \$16.35
HRO-50AA	27.0-30.0 Mc.	Net \$16.35
HRO-50AB	30.0-35.0 Mc.	Net \$24.00
HRO-50AC	21.0-21.5 Mc.	Net \$16.35

WHILE ARGUABLY UNCONVENTIONAL

to modern ham radio eyes, the National HRO-60 receiver was a very high-end top-performer in its day, building upon a legacy of earlier designs dating back to the original HRO in 1935. Some of the standout features included an internal power supply, 8-watts of push-pull audio output via a pair of 6V6 tubes for really astounding listening performance on the shortwave bands, and an illuminated slide-rule dial for better frequency tuning accuracy.

The entire HRO series of receivers was well known for using four (or more, as options) changeable coil sets to change the bands. By using plug-in coil cartridges, National was able to achieve superb frequency stability over band-switching receivers which were pretty much the standard of the day.

Coils plugged into the compartment you see in the ad photo at left, opened by lifting the two rectangular release handles. Coils AA through D were included in the purchase price, covering from 50 KHz to 30 MHz. Additional coils were available as accessories.

This was a serious receiver, and a hefty piece of gear at 65 pounds. The \$335 1950 purchase price equates to \$4400 today, putting it at the top of the price class for a receiver back then. And then hope to have money left over for a transmitter, key, and antenna!

-Dave W7UUU

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

RADIO ADS FROM 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

W7UUU

AS HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN THIS column before, Chicago in the 1920s was a Mecca of electronics parts manufacturers, and remained so for several decades. Many of the brands even exist to this day (names bought out by foreign interests but still known in the market). Names such as Zenith Radio, Western Electric (significant operations in Chicago), and Echophone produced vast volumes of electronic parts. Also large numbers of products for the burgeoning "radio market" of the 1920s, which was that era's equivalent of the explosion of the internet in the 1990s.

Other names were less known: Clapp-Eastham (who made amateur radio gear), Operadio Manufacturing (speakers and electronic parts) and Steinite Radio company. But one of the lesser-known firms, with an ad pictured at the right, was the **All-American Mohawk Corporation**, with a logo of a Mohawk Native American. This is a combination of cultural motifs that likely wouldn't fly today, but was a fairly common concept during the early to mid 20th century. Little is known about them, or how long they lasted. But their branded parts still show up at hamfests most every weekend.

-Dave W7UUU

RADIO AGE for May, 1925

The Magazine of the Hour 5



Radio at its Finest ~
Now Within Your Reach

This is Not a Kit!

WIN
* AN
**ALL-AMAX
RECEIVER**

At your favorite
Radio Store

Ask them about
the great
**ALL-AMERICAN
Slogan Contest**

You can win
a set by
submitting a
SLOGAN

Everybody can
enter. It costs
nothing

Semi-Finished — Factory-Mounted

YOU buy this set with the ALL-AMERICAN parts properly mounted on the panel and baseboard. Without knowledge of blueprints, circuits or names of radio parts, you can wire up an ALL-AMAX SENIOR in one delightful evening and know that it is right. It was inevitable that sooner or later this reliable—and still economical!—method of getting a high-grade radio set should be discovered. ALL-AMERICAN manufacturing ingenuity has found the solution and offers this completely mounted, highly efficient three-tube set at no more than you would pay for a kit of parts. Price, \$42

Ten cents will bring you the new Radio Key Book, and upon request we will include, free, a complete wiring blueprint of either ALL-AMAX SENIOR or ALL-AMAX JUNIOR.

ALL-AMERICAN RADIO CORP.
E. N. Rauland, President
2680 Coyne Street, Chicago

ALL-AMAX JUNIOR
The same unique manufacturing methods that created ALL-AMAX SENIOR have brought forth ALL-AMAX JUNIOR—a one-tube set that brings in the local stations on the loud speaker, or tunes them out and gets real distance. All parts are mounted on panel and baseboard, and clear photographic wiring directions are included. Price, \$22

ALL-AMERICAN

* Tested and Approved by RADIO AGE *

TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about

W7UUU



Wouxun KG-935H



IF YOU'RE INTO HANDHELD HAM RADIOS and want something with a little more capability than the usual "cheap Chinese" 2-meter / 70-centimeter combo, the Wouxun KG-935G Plus might just catch your attention. It certainly catches mine for a very simple reason: **It's one of the very few handhelds sold in the U.S. that includes the 1.25-meter band (222–225 MHz),** and that alone makes it stand out from the pack. Not a lot of manufacturers bother including 1.25 meters in their HTs, or even mobile rigs for a very simple reason: of the three ITU (International Telecommunications Union) regions, only Region 2 (the Americas) allows amateur radio on this band. Region 1 and Region 3 (with a couple miniscule exceptions) do not. That means for the manufacturers, the entire Asian, European, and Middle East markets are completely excluded. It's simply not economical for the "Big Three" (Yaesu, Icom, and Kenwood) to build radios to cover 220 MHz. So right off the bat,

this is a great option for folks who like to explore beyond the usual VHF/UHF scene of 2m and 70cm. In many regions in the U.S., there's actually quite a lot of activity on 220 (I have a repeater just a few miles from me that's in use for hours every day!).

I recently had a chance to have one of these in my hand but didn't have much of an opportunity to try it or even take photos. But just from the brief "in my hands" time I was impressed. The KG-935H is a rugged-feeling radio with a solid, professional look to it—nothing cheap or plasticky. It's way beyond the build level of a Baofeng UV5R level of HT (which I would expect, since the Wouxun is considerably more expensive).

It puts out a very respectable 8 watts on high power, so it has a little oomph to it. It covers the usual: 144–148 MHz for 2 meters, 222–225 MHz for 1.25 meters, and 420–450 MHz for 70 centimeters—pretty much all you want in an analog-only tri-bander geared for the U.S. ham market. Note that I said "analog only" - so no digital operation is available—it's plain old FM—however it DOES support narrow band as well as wide, so will be fully compatible when all the repeaters roll over to narrow-band operation next year. And of course, it's Part 97 certified, so it's good to go on the amateur bands. (There are videos and sites that talk about a way to make it work on MURS and GMRS but I don't consider that a feature as far as hams should be concerned. It's not FCC type-accepted for those services so I don't recommend anyone do this). They have another model, the KG-935G that is GMRS *only*—if you want GMRS, buy one of those.



THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about



W7UUU

The radio is fully programmable (and fairly easily right from the keypad), with 999 memory channels available, which is likely WAY more than enough for most users—even those who like to fill a radio with every local repeater, simplex frequency, weather channel, and maybe a few oddball ones for scanning fun. Speaking of scanning, the KG-935G Plus has some nice features in that department too, like priority channel monitoring, customizable scan groups, and a dual receive mode that lets you monitor two channels at once—even across different bands. You can mix and match 2m, 70cm, or 1.25 meters on either VFO. Pretty cool.

One thing I really like about this radio is the display. It's full-color, bright and easy to read, and it can be customized with different color themes. That might sound a little gimmicky, but when you're using the radio at night or outdoors in bright sunlight, being able to tweak the look and brightness really comes in handy. I found I could read it really well even in full sunlight.. There's even a programmable "BRIGHT+" button that lets you bump up the display brightness on the fly, which is pretty slick.

The radio also includes a cross-band full-duplex repeat function—a rare and really useful feature in a

handheld. Basically, it can receive on one band and re-transmit on another, which is great for extending coverage in tricky areas or using it as a kind of mini relay when you're hiking with a buddy who's out of direct range.



Another cool inclusion is the USB-C charging port. I really like that so many electronics products these days are FINALLY starting to standardize on a "single plug" charging option! (Even iPhones now use USB-C!) The 2600 mAh battery can be charged directly via USB-C, so you're not locked into a proprietary charging cradle. However: the KG-935H charging cradle and battery are not interchangeable with early models. The 935H uses a 3-contact system, whereas all the previous Wouxun radios had a 4-contact system. I think that's a really bad design choice on their part—why didn't they make it compatible with prior-model batteries and drop-in chargers?

But at least, with the USB-C, you can just plug it into any modern USB-C charger, car adapter, or power bank and you're good to go. That's a really smart move by Wouxun and one I wish more HT makers would adopt.

One decided negative for me: it comes with *two* antennas. One covers 2m and 70cm, but to use the



TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about



W7UUU

1.25cm band (220) you have to install the second antenna. Seriously? They couldn't have sourced a true "tri-band" antenna from the vast resources of Chinese manufacturing? Fortunately, Nagoya makes a number of suitable tri-band antennas for a reasonable price on Amazon and ham radio vendors.

So aside from all that, they've also packed in the



usual extras—built-in flashlight and FM broadcast receiver buttons (wouldn't be a Chinese HT without those important features!), NOAA weather channels with alerts, a loud internal speaker, and a backlit DTMF keypad with two programmable side buttons.

The audio is nice and clear, and the radio has a rugged [IP66 rating](#) for dust and water resistance, so it should stand up to a bit of real-world use out in the field. But the manual clearly says it's NOT submersible, and the charging cradle has no IP ratings at all.

As for price, the KG-935G is now available at \$149 from a [number of vendors](#), which I think is a solid deal considering everything you get—especially that rare 222 MHz coverage and cross-band repeat capability. No, it's not the cheapest HT out there, but it delivers what I personally consider great value and feels like a more serious radio than most of the sub-\$100 Chinese HT on the market.

All in all, the Wouxun KG-935H Plus is a great choice for any ham looking for a well-built, full-featured handheld that goes beyond the usual dual-band limitations. In my scanning of reviews, I was hard-pressed to find many negatives but found tons of positives, with consistent nearly-perfect 5-star reviews. The only negative reviews I saw related to the change in the charging cradle from earlier models, the fact it takes two antennas to use on all three bands, and folks with issues with "programming it outside of the ham bands" - hey that's on you if you want to do that.

-Dave W7UUU



Click the image if you want to watch a review video on this radio by "Buy Two-Way Radios" who is one of the resellers of this HT. I have **zero** affiliation and this is not an endorsement.



Plan Now: Upcoming POTA!

By BJ KO7T

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA POTA 2025 Schedule

This past year, the club hosted 11 POTA activations at 7 different parks, and we have BIG plans for 2025!

The Club's POTA Chairman, BJ KO7T, is always looking ahead for fun new parks in the state to activate. It's always a great way for members to get involved with amateur radio while enjoying the great outdoors here in Washington State!

Here's the upcoming schedule:

PARK: [Nolte State Park](#)

DATE: May 18, 2025

TIMES: 10:00 AM PDT

PARK: [Illehee State Park](#)

DATE: June 15, 2025

TIMES: 10:00 AM PDT

PARK: [Saint Edward State Park](#)

DATE: July 20th

TIMES: 10:00 AM PDT

Everyone is invited to come to our POTA activation events. It's a great opportunity to learn about different antenna types, setting up and tuning antennas with loading coils and/or a counterpoise, learn about different digital modes, and other topics related to portable operations. We usually have 3 to 5 stations set up running many modes on multiple bands. We encourage prospective hams to get on the air, and those with Technician licenses to operate on different bands with a control operator. For club members with a General license, we even have a portable POTA kit that is available to check out from the club the Saturday prior to our club activations. Please see or [email BJ Rollison](#) (KO7T) for more information.

-BJ KO7T



BJ KO7T operating at a recent POTA activation



THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 12TH AND 13TH WAS THE PARKS on the Air (POTA) Spring Support Your Park weekend event, so I scheduled our club activation for the 13th at [Lake Sammamish State Park \(US-3216\)](#) in Issaquah, Washington. This park sits at the south end of Lake Sammamish and is one of the largest in the state, featuring two sandy beaches, miles of trails, clean facilities, pavilions, and big open fields—perfect for spreading out antennas. The rangers here are very familiar with POTA operations, and at least one of the park volunteers is also a licensed ham.

I was especially excited for April's club POTA activation after missing the past three months due to rotator cuff and bicep tendon surgery. Full recovery is still several months away, and I need to limit the range of motion and strain on my arm. But a collapsible wagon helped transport my kit where it needed to go, and I still have my right arm for lifting, raising a mast, and other chores. I was ready to get out of the shack and go play radio!

I woke up early Sunday morning to a chilly 33°F. But the view from the kitchen window revealed blue skies and the morning sun slowly melting the frost glistening on the lawn. It felt like a good day, and I knew things would be heating up. Anything above

50°F is considered warm in the Pacific Northwest, and with that bright yellow sphere in the sky, I knew Washingtonians would be rushing to parks and beaches to soak up some vitamin-D. I quickly downed my coffee, loaded the car, and made the short 20-minute drive to stake out a prime spot for our club's Spring Support Your Parks activation.



Park entrance—photo WA State Parks

I arrived at the park around 8:30 a.m. As I drove through the parking area, I was surprised to find that the field we typically use was flooded with standing water. So I continued to the end of the lot to grab the pavilion at the west end of the park, which also has plenty of room for multiple antennas. The morning air was still brisk, but I got to work setting up my Buddi-

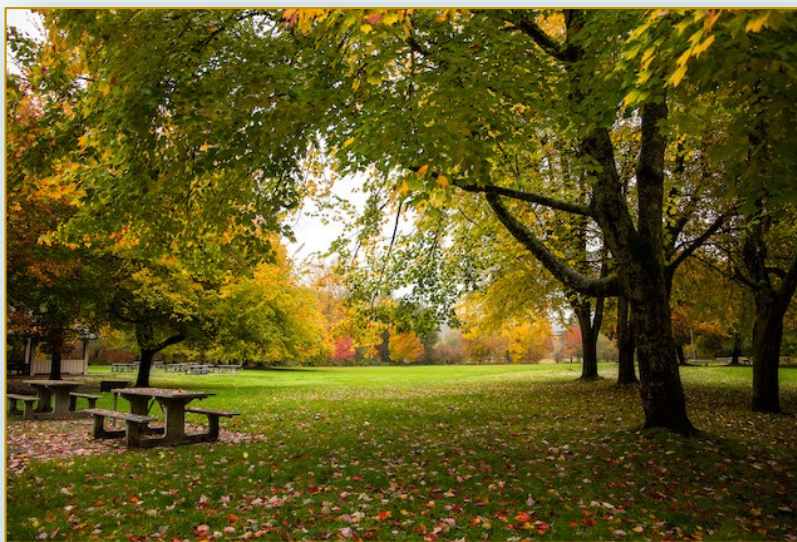
pole dipole on an 18-foot mast—under the watchful eye of a bald eagle perched in a nearby tree.

Mike **W7MKE** was the next to arrive. Along with his regular kit, he brought a Buddistick Pro antenna from the club's POTA kit to try out. It was our first time setting up this antenna, so we spent some time adjusting the taps on the loading coil to get Mike working 20 meters sideband. John **N7TES** came with his friend Michael **KJ7TIK** and set up for FT8 on 10



meters. Dave **KK7NYW**, another regular at our monthly activations, worked 15 meters SSB. Julie **W7JUL** also came with her radio kit and an end-fed random wire antenna she built during one of our hands-on club classes. Since getting her license, Julie has jumped into the hobby with both feet, eagerly participating in classes and other club events. She was joined by her husband, Brad **KK7YQC** who earned his Technician license in January because “Julie was having so much fun in the hobby.”

Christen **KK7YQI** also came out to learn more about POTA activations and operating HF. She’s done a lot of VHF/UHF work, but HF is a new facet of the hobby she’s beginning to explore. We also had an unexpected guest, Chuck **KA7WYR**, who introduced himself and said he was preparing to operate from the Tibbetts Beach area of the park. He took time from his activation to stop by and say hello. This is his “home park,” as he lives just five minutes away. Chuck has activated the park 26 times and mentioned he’s working toward his [Kilo Award](#) here. He asked if anyone had a VHF/UHF HT for a few quick contacts—but unfortunately, none of us had brought one. That won’t happen again... a VHF/UHF HT is now going into my local POTA kit.



Plenty of spots for a POTA! Photo WA State Parks

Band conditions weren’t great, but as always, our POTA activations are about more than just logging contacts. Tuning coils, tweaking FT8 settings, troubleshooting bad cables—each outing is a practical, hands-on learning experience. It’s not about the numbers; our activations are all about helping each other grow in the hobby. I’m always delighted to see club members come out to these events. Even folks without portable gear can join in the fun—giving op-

erators a break, sharing knowledge with newer members, or just enjoying a good laugh. And it’s always a treat to run into fellow hams in the community who not only share our love of amateur radio but also en-

joy getting outside and playing radio in the parks!

Our club’s next POTA activation will be at Nolte State Park on May 18th. Please check the W7DK website for more details on this and other upcoming activations. And remember—you don’t have to be a club member to join us. Everyone’s welcome to come out and share the fun!

-BJ Rollison **K07T**



David Hansen **KK7NYW** with BJ **KO7T**
at Lake Sammamish State Park



Christen **KK7YQI**, Michael **KJ7TIK**,
John **N7TES**



Julie **W7JUL** and Brad **KY7YQC**



Mike **W7MKE**

Photos provided by BJ **KO7T**

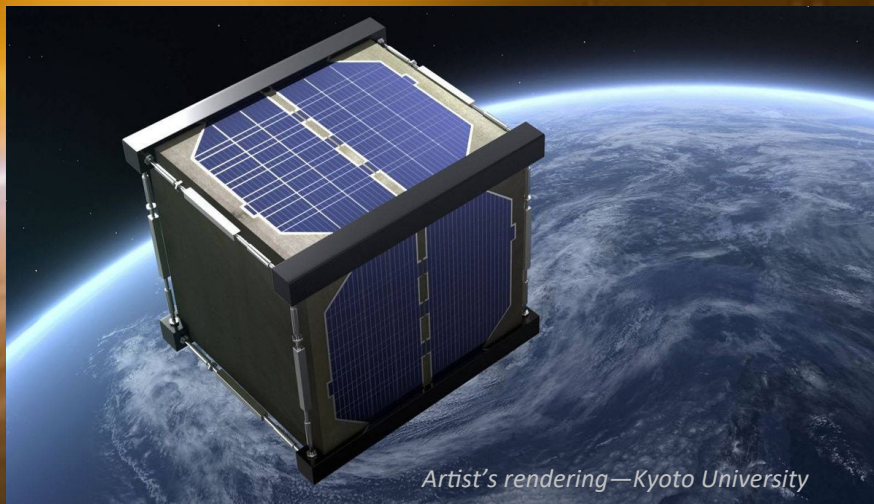
WORLD'S 1ST WOODEN SATELLITE LAUNCHED



By Dave W7UUU

ONE SMALL STUMP FOR A MAN... A GIANT LEAP FOR ... the future of using wood products in space.

Somehow this story from last November missed the radar of most ham radio publications and websites (at least so far as I can tell). But it deserves getting out there, so *The Logger's Bark* is up to the challenge even if we're a little late to the party!



Artist's rendering—Kyoto University

When was the last time anyone can think of that wood was considered a “new material”? Arguably, not for *millennia*. That is, unless you consider outer space... in which case wood is about as alien there as little green men are walking on the earth.

In a pioneering effort to explore “sustainable materials in space technology”, Japanese researchers have developed and launched the world's first *wooden satellite*, named LignoSat. You read that right—in November, a satellite made from *wood* launched into orbit, and not only that—it is carrying amateur

radio equipment on board! (That being the biggest head-scratcher why this didn't get more press exposure in the amateur community). The name “LignoSat” derives from the Latin word *lignum*, meaning wood, with Sat for satellite, thus reflecting the key construction material of the device. This innovative project, a collaboration between [Kyoto](#)

[University](#) and [Sumitomo Forestry](#), aims to assess the viability of wood as a construction material in the harsh environment of space. Through extensive studies and research aboard the ISS over the last five years, various types of wood were considered for this project. Long-term reasoning for even considering using wood in space involves early research into building wooden housing on the moon and Mars in the distant future, and terraforming the planet to grow timber forests. The final wood chosen for the satellite, according to Kyoto

University forestry researcher [Koji Murata](#), is Japanese magnolia (pictured in the page header). This is a wood well-known to the Japanese for its strength and resistance to shattering. It's been used for thousands of years in Japan for sword scabbards and [Geta](#)—wooden flip-flop shoes as well. Of course, the fact that one of the major partners in this project, Sumitomo Forestry, also happens to be one of Japan's largest timber concerns, supplying lumber for not only consumers in Japan, but also in the U.S. and Australia. So it's no surprise they have

WORLD'S 1ST WOODEN SATELLITE LAUNCHED



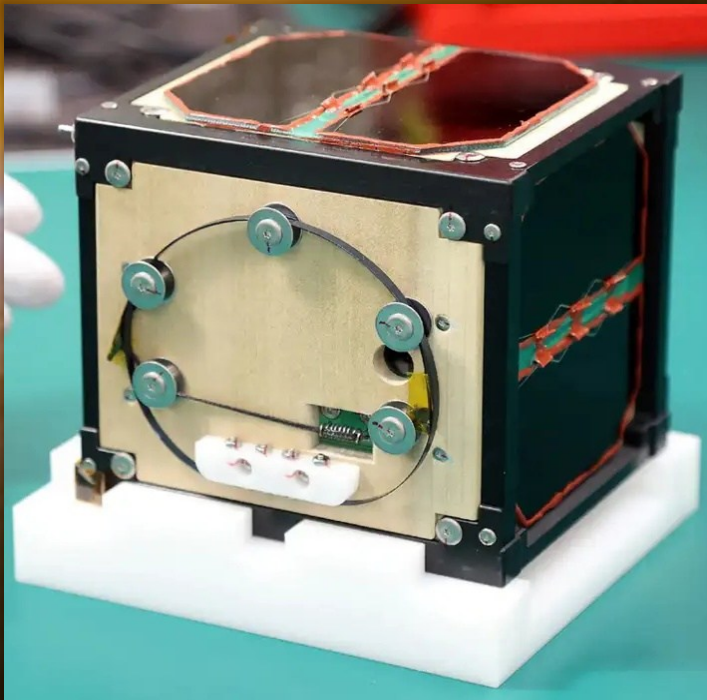
By Dave W7UUU

a fundamental interest in a project that long-term could put them in the real estate biz on other planets, building subdivisions on Mars and beyond!

LignoSat was successfully launched on November 5, 2024, aboard a [SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket](#) from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The satellite was subsequently delivered to the International Space

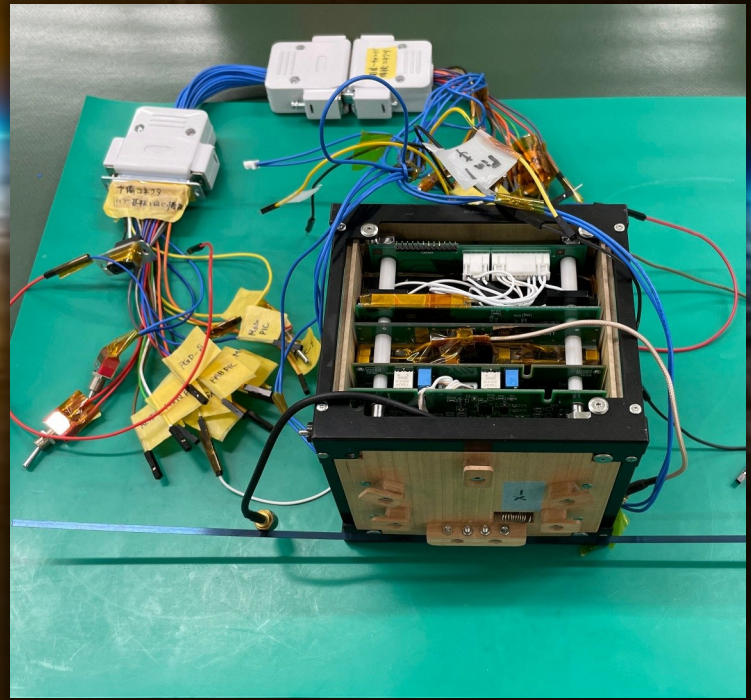
Station (ISS), where it was deployed into orbit from the [Japanese Kibo Experiment Module](#) in December 2024. Weighing just shy of two pounds and measuring 10x10x10cm (standard [CubeSat 1U](#) frame—10cm is 3.94 inches), LignoSat was expected to operate in Earth's orbit for approximately three to six months. As of this writing (April 8, 2025) the satellite is beginning initial stages of orbital decay—which is another aspect of the mission: studying the atmospheric burning of the first predominantly wooden satellite as it is destroyed returning to earth.

The primary objective of utilizing wood in LignoSat's construction is to evaluate its durability, expansion, contraction, and performance in space (much of the



Solar cells in place top and right. The circular mechanism is part of the wood frame-stress telemetry system

Photo Kyoto University



Top view showing placement of the various PC Boards inside the CubeSat

Photo Kyoto University

Station (ISS), where it was deployed into orbit from the [Japanese Kibo Experiment Module](#) in December 2024. Weighing just shy of two pounds and measuring 10x10x10cm (standard [CubeSat 1U](#) frame—10cm is 3.94 inches), LignoSat was expected to operate in Earth's orbit for approximately three to six months. As of this writing (April 8, 2025) the satellite is beginning

actual study of the magnolia wood was carried out aboard the ISS). Wood, as we all know, is a renewable resource, and its successful application in spacecraft could lead to more “environmentally friendly” space exploration practices (and of course provide data for the nascent market) for “lumber in outer space”, given the involvement with Sumitomo Forestry.

WORLD'S 1ST WOODEN SATELLITE LAUNCHED



By Dave W7UUU

Notably, wood allows electromagnetic waves to pass through, enabling any communications antennas to be housed *internally*, which simplifies the satellite's structure and reduces potential failure risks. Another claim by the project's sponsors, is that wooden satellites "can significantly reduce environmental risks, as they would burn up upon re-entry into Earth's atmosphere without leaving metal residues, thereby minimizing space debris pollution".

and recording errors that require correction". This data will provide valuable insights into the feasibility of using wood in future spacecraft and of course, constructing wooden buildings, and ultimately homes, on the Moon or Mars—possibly one distant day, from trees grown on other planets.

The satellite was designed to transmit various information via RF telemetry about its status to a ground station at Kyoto University. However, it was reported that as of January 10, 2025, no such telemetry signals had been received, possibly due to issues with the satellite's power system. The team continues to attempt to establish communication with LignoSat to retrieve the data collected.

But an amateur radio beacon system was also installed in LignoSat—not exactly a full-blown ham radio satellite repeater in the usual sense however. The

ham gear aboard the cube will receive FM packet signals at 435.820 MHz, and reply back with the extracted call sign with the words "W7XXX thank you" sent in CW.

How well this works out I've not been able to corroborate other than via this [LINK](#) which reports that Oleg Soroka UX5UL in Ukraine was the most recent contact (with an Orange flag, which means "questionable"), on April 4, 2025 at 12:24:23 UTC.



Magnolia panel construction, using traditional Japanese woodworking methods with no metal fasteners.

Photo Kyoto University

LignoSat is equipped with sensors designed to monitor how its wooden components withstand the extreme conditions of space, including temperature fluctuations and cosmic radiation. The satellite's mission includes "measuring how different forces affect its shape, recording internal temperature variations, geomagnetic forces influencing its trajectory,

WORLD'S 1ST WOODEN SATELLITE LAUNCHED



By Dave W7UUU

The most recent *confirmed* (green flag) report occurred on March 26, 2025 at 20:43:12 UTC as contacted by Max Goodall [ZL2MST](#).



Left: Before solar panels

Right: After installation

evolved between the 17th and 19th centuries, first used for high-end cabinetwork for wealthy Japanese and Samurai families.

In the photo on the previous page you can see the clever mortises that don't penetrate the outside surface, resulting in very strong invisible joints.



Photos by Kyoto University

The satellite's six wooden panels are made from Japanese Honoki magnolia, a wood known for its durability and resistance to shattering. The construction uses traditional Japanese techniques without the use of nails, screws, dowels, or even glue. In Japanese, this fine joinery is called Sashimono (指物) and is a technique for assembling furniture and other wooden objects using mortises (grooves) called *hozo* to join two boards in a blind joint that's not visible from the outside surfaces. These techniques

Power for the LignoSat is provided by solar panels, as is typical of many CubeSat satellites, enabling it to operate autonomously in orbit.

While not the resounding success hoped for (due to the seemingly-failed telemetry system), deployment of LignoSat nonetheless represents a significant step toward using forest products in space. If wood proves to be a viable material for such applications, it could ultimately lead to the development of

WORLD'S 1ST WOODEN SATELLITE LAUNCHED

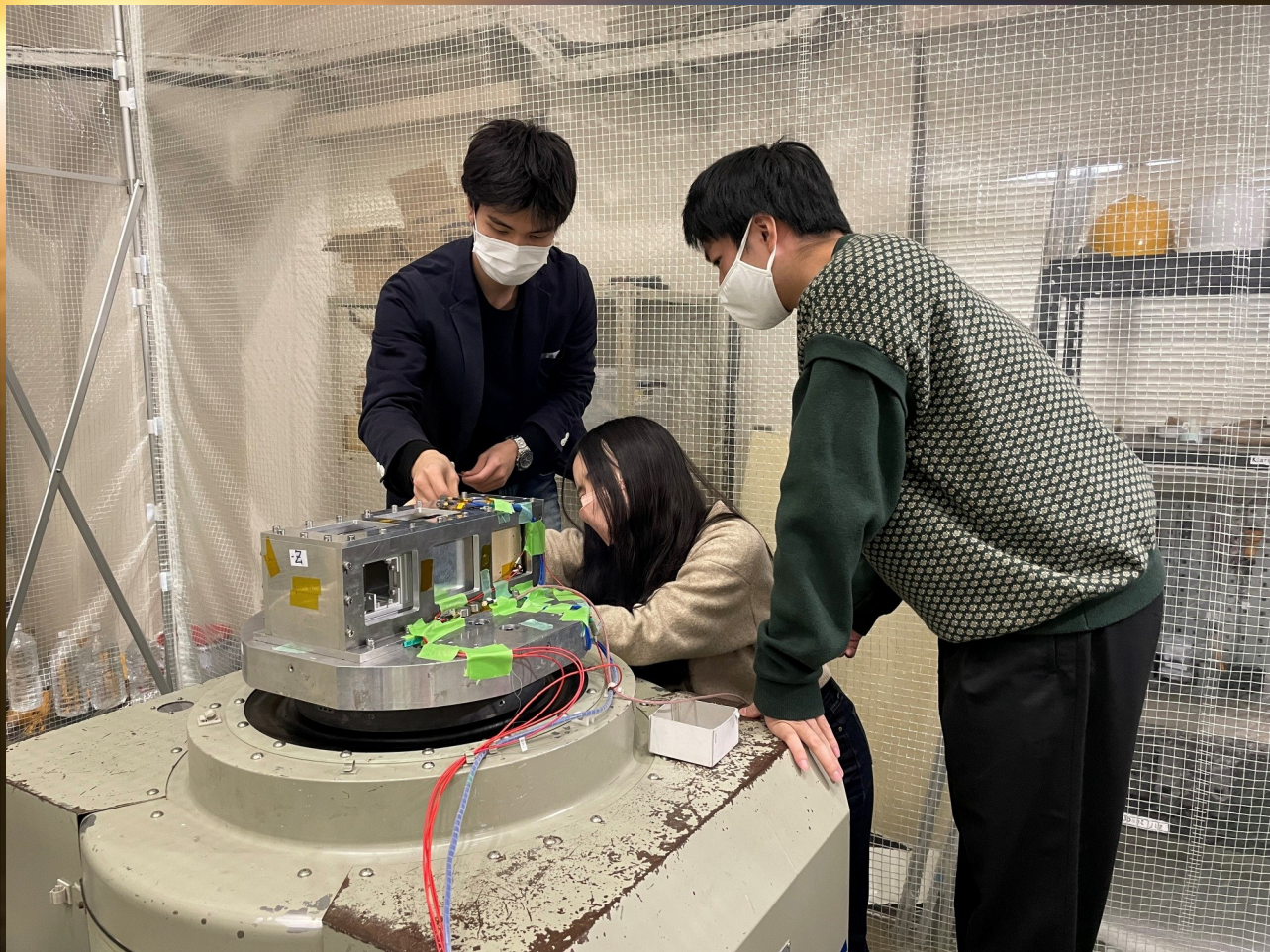


By Dave W7UUU

wood-built working and housing habitats on the Moon and Mars, providing effective insulation and protection in harsh extraterrestrial environments. And of course, per the team behind LignoSat, wooden satellites could “offer an eco-friendly alternative to traditional metal satellites, reducing space debris and environmental impact upon re-entry”.

Following LignoSat's launch, Kyoto University has initiated the development of a second wooden satellite, which is expected to be twice the size (a 2U-class CubeSat) and is scheduled for launch in late 2027 or early 2028. At this early date, no mention has been made for a more advanced amateur radio payload. But hopefully, at a minimum, the next satellite will offer a similar ham radio linkup as the first.

-Dave W7UUU



Engineers at Kyoto University working out a trial-fit of the LignoSat satellite into a CubeSat ISS launching fixture

Photo Kyoto University



STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!



W7UUU

Hidden Word Contest

This month's hidden word is **Fahnestock**

Fahnestock Clips were all the rage in the early days of radio. Patented in 1907 by electrical engineer James Fahnestock, the clips that bore his name made breadboard circuits a breeze. You simply push down on the top metal tab, then insert your hookup wire into the clamp. The base of the clip would be soldered with a wire leading to the circuit on the breadboard. Many millions were sold over the 20th century, and even today experiments still like to build using Fahnestock clips to connect to the outside world—crystal radios, QRP transmitters, test gear, etc. They are easy to find and reasonably priced. The word Fahnestock is hidden somewhere in *The Bark* (but this page doesn't count!). Find the word, and shoot me an email telling me where you found it, and I'll send you some cool W7DK & QRZ stickers for free as your prize!

Hidden Object Contest

This month, the "hidden object" will be the same as the hidden word—a Fahnestock Clip! The word and image are hidden somewhere in this issue of *The Bark*. Find either one or both, shoot me an email and I'll send you some cool W7DK & QRZ stickers for free as your prize!



Famous Ham May Birthdays

FATHER MARSHALL D. MORAN, born May 29, 1906, was a Jesuit priest well known for his missionary work in India and Nepal. He was first licensed in India as **VU2SX**, before relocating to Nepal at which point he was relicensed as **9N1MM**. He was one of the first licensed amateur radio operators in Nepal.

Father Moran used radio to connect remote areas with the outside world, often serving as a phone patch link for missionaries, travelers, and even diplomats. His station provided emergency communication and facilitated personal messages when conventional means were unavailable (which was often).

Beyond his radio work, Moran was deeply involved in education, founding St. Xavier's School in Kathmandu. His legacy in amateur radio remains strong, as he was very well known on the air. His QSL cards turn up on eBay fairly often, as he was a prolific operator and happy to QSL his pretty rare country with anyone who contacted him.

-Dave **W7UUU**



Father Marshall Moran **9N1MM** in his shack ca. late 1980s

Photo: Brooke Allen



HOW FT8 WORKS

UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN ABSENT FROM HAM RADIO for a fair number of years, you should know that FT8 is one of the most popular digital modes in amateur radio today, and for good reason. It's a mode that allows for reliable communication under potentially very poor propagation conditions, using modest antennas and often with very low power levels. Whether you're chasing DX, need states for your Worked All States award, operating POTA, or just enjoy casual QSOs, FT8 has become the go-to digital mode for a huge number of hams worldwide.

For those who simply hate all things FT8 and don't want to see or hear any mention of it, please—scroll on by right now and pick up the next article instead.

You won't like this one. Trust me.

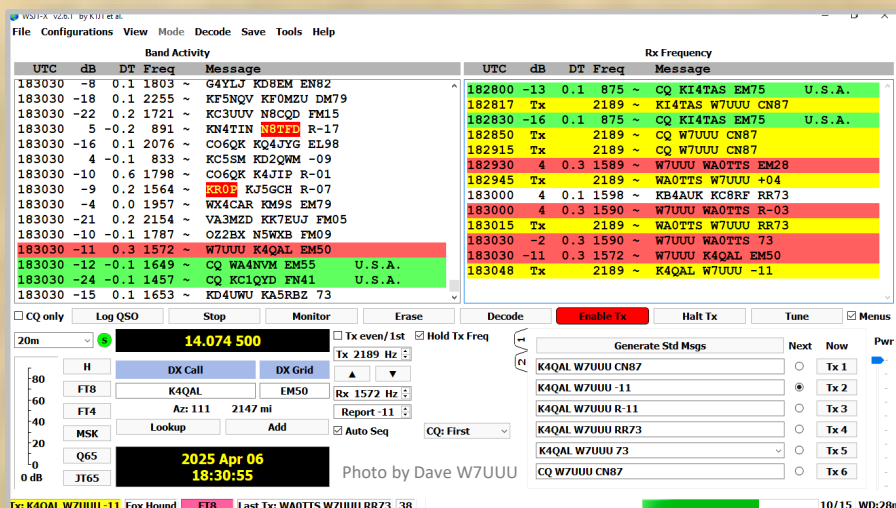
So—if you're still here, that must mean you want to know: what exactly is FT8, where did it come from, and how does it work? Let's take a look at the history and the inner workings of this revolutionary mode—without going so deep into the math that your eyes glaze over (I'm not great at math so don't worry—I won't go there!).

FT8 stands for "Franke-Taylor 8-tone," named after its co-creators, Joe Taylor **K1JT** and Steve Franke **K9AN**, and the number of FSK-modulation tones the mode takes to operate (8). Joe is a Nobel Prize-winning astrophysicist who, in his retirement, turned his attention to weak-signal digital communications for amateur radio. Before FT8, Taylor had already released a suite of digital modes under the WSJT software package, including the very well-known JT65 and JT9 modes. These

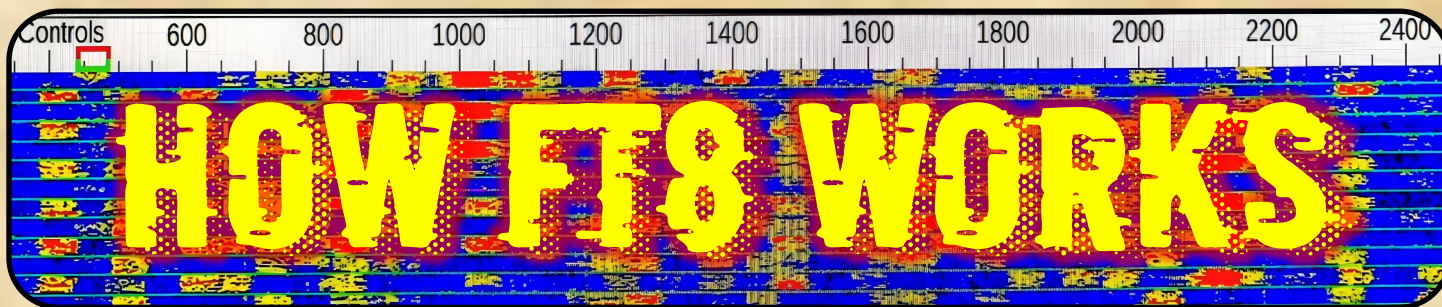
modes were optimized for extremely weak signals and long, slow QSOs—perfect for things like EME (moon-bounce) or low-power HF contacts, but not great for rapid-fire contacts (JT65 takes from 6-8 minutes to complete a single QSO).

FT8 was created to fill that gap: a mode that retained weak-signal capabilities like JT65 offers, but allowed for faster contacts (2 minutes), making it ideal for HF.

FT8 was officially introduced in mid-2017, and it caught on like wildfire (largely, in part, due to the popularity of Taylor's first modes JT65 and JT9). It offered much shorter transmission cycles—15 seconds instead of the 60-



View of the WSJT-X software. The box on the left shows the calling stations as decoded from the waterfall. Green are stations calling CQ. Red/yellow highlighted call signs are stations my log has told WSJT-X that I've worked before. Solid red are stations I'm currently in QSO with. Unhighlighted stations are in QSO with other hams. On the right panel is the full QSO progress. You can see that I (**W7UUU**) called CQ (my CQ call is in yellow) and I was answered by station **WA0TTS** showing in red. If you zoom this image on your screen, the rest should be self-evident... signal reports in dB readings, audio frequencies used, grid squares of the other station, etc.



second cycles of JT65—and an easier operating experience. Within a year of its release, FT8 had become one of the most widely used modes on the HF bands, with thousands of QSOs being logged daily. It was an overnight success story, especially for operators dealing with poor band conditions or minimal equipment.

So what makes FT8 so effective? It all comes down to how the software that runs FT8 uses the radio spectrum, how it encodes data, and how it handles errors. FT8 is a digital mode that uses frequency shift keying, or FSK, specifically an 8-tone variant called 8-FSK. This means that each symbol—basically each “chunk” of data being sent—is represented by one of eight different audio frequencies.

These frequencies are all tightly packed within a very narrow 50Hz bandwidth, making FT8 signals incredibly efficient. Each tone is spaced 6.25 Hz apart, and the entire transmission of many contacts fits neatly into a single sideband voice passband. It's significantly narrower than its predecessors, JT65 and JT9.

A full single FT8 transmission lasts 12.64 seconds and includes 79 symbols (tones). Each symbol lasts .16 seconds which gives the mode its 6.25 baud rate. Because it's using 8 different tones (3 bits per symbol), FT8 can transmit enough information in each cycle to

exchange callsigns, grid locators, signal reports, and confirmations—all within the strict 13-character message limit (the same character limit that JT65 had).

These received messages might seem cryptic at first to new users, but they're actually highly structured, which makes it easy for the software to decode them even when signals are very weak.

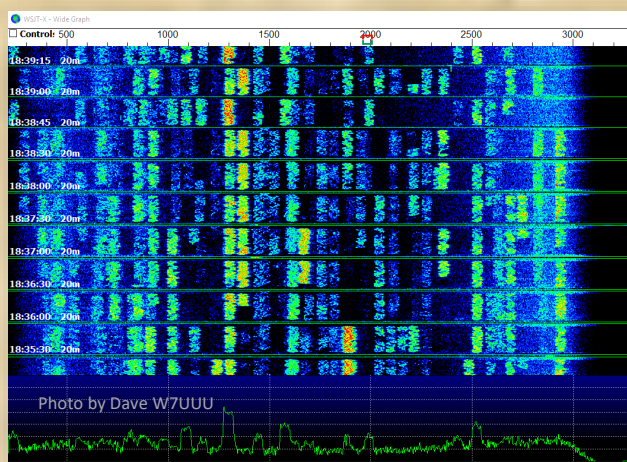
One of the biggest factors behind FT8's success is its use of forward error correction, or FEC. This is a technique that adds redundant data to the signal so that errors can be detected and corrected at the receiving end. In the case

of FT8, a form of [low-density parity-check](#)

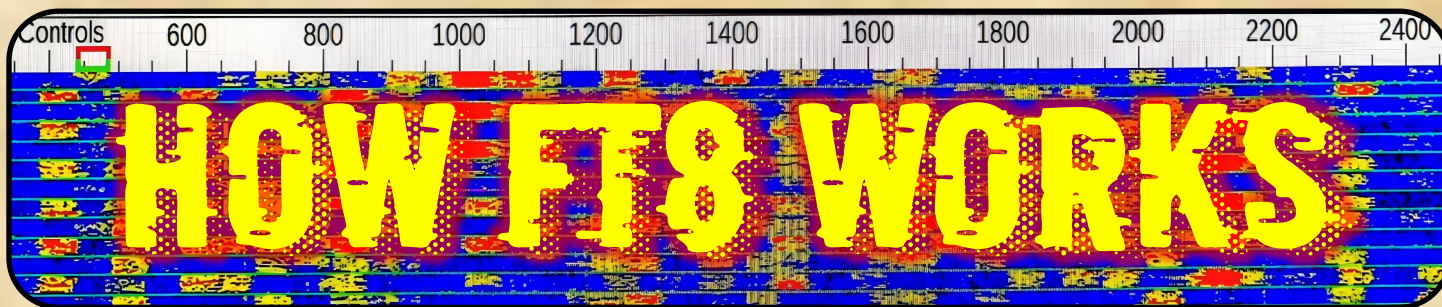
(LDPC) coding is used.

This allows the decoder to reconstruct parts of the message even if they're missing or corrupted by noise. Combined with interleaving—or spreading the bits out across the entire frame gives FT8 its impressive robustness in the face of fading, interference, and atmospheric noise (QRN).

Timing is also a crucial part of the FT8 magic. All FT8 transmissions begin on even 15-second boundaries based on Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) or as we used to refer to it, Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). That means your computer's clock needs to be



The full “waterfall” displayed (you don’t need to see the whole thing to use WSJT-X and FT8—you just need to see the top inch or so, to make sure your transmit signal (the red cursor you see at 2000 Hz on the top) is in a more-or-less unused space. The stripes are FT8 signals as received—the brighter the trace, the stronger the received signal. This can often have little to do with transmitter power of the station and everything to do with his antenna, how close he might be to your QTH, how efficient his antenna is, or other factors.



very accurate—within a second or so. Most operators rely on internet-based time services based on Network Time Protocol (NTP) servers to keep their system clocks in sync. One of the most popular (and the one I use in all cases) is free, and is called [Dimension4](#). It will automatically synchronize your computer over the internet to a network time server to keep it precisely on time.

This tight timing allows the WSJT-X software to know exactly when to listen for signals, which improves its ability to detect and decode them. **Note that you do NOT need to have an internet source to run FT8!** If you are planning a POTA or SOTA outing, and know that you won't have internet where you're going, just remember to run Dimension4 (or other NTP client software you prefer) *before you leave*—your computer will then be more than plenty accurate once you're out in the sticks doing your activation.

To run FT8, you will have some learning to do that we won't be covering in this article: the [WSJT-X software](#) platform is what you'll need to install on your computer if you've not already done so. It's beyond the scope of this basic article (How FT8 Works) to cover installing and configuring WSJT-X—perhaps we can cover that in a future article. But there are plenty of YouTube training videos to get you started. Just go to YouTube and search “WSJT-X on IC-7300” or whatever radio you plan to use.

So how does a typical FT8 QSO play out? First, one station calls CQ, something like “CQ **W7UUU** CN87 [grid square].” Another station replies with a message like “W7UUU **K1ABC** FN31”. These sequences are set up in the software when you install it. You are merely triggering them with your mouse—either to call CQ, or to answer a calling station. The original station sends a signal report—say, “K1ABC **W7UUU** -12”—and the other station responds with their own report. Finally, a shorthand

message like “RR73” is sent to confirm the QSO [“Roger Received 73”]. Each message fits into the 13-character limit, and most QSOs are completed in under two minutes. Because the software automates much of the exchange, it's not uncommon to make dozens of contacts in a short period without typing a thing.

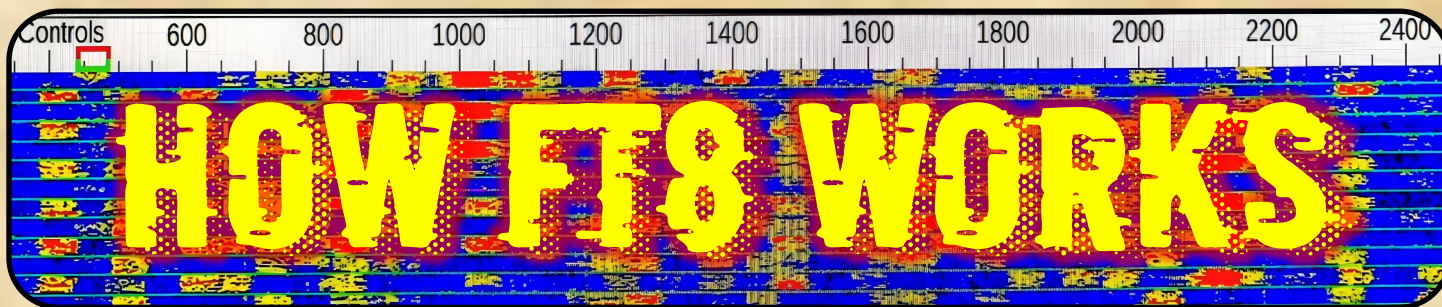
NOTE: *WSJT-X FT8 It is not however “automatic”**... there's a big difference. Depending on conditions, you very well might have to repeat a step, re-triggering the step yourself. It's NOT “computers working computers” - FT8 is really no different than any other ham radio computer mode like RTTY, SSTV, or PSK31. Don't buy into the lies saying otherwise—most often repeated by hams who have never actually used FT8! It's not always that easy!*

From a user's perspective, FT8 is simple to operate. You fire up WSJT-X, choose the FT8 mode, select a frequency, and click “Enable TX.” To reply to a CQ call, simply double click the line with their call sign. But far more than the ease of use is its weak-signal performance that has played the biggest part in its popularity.

While FT8 has been praised for its technical brilliance and accessibility, it also has its critics. Some operators feel that the automated stepping nature of FT8 removes the human element from ham radio**. Others lament that FT8 QSOs are minimalistic and lack the conversational depth of SSB or CW. These are fair criticisms, and FT8 isn't meant to replace traditional modes. Instead, it offers a new tool in the toolbox—one that excels in certain conditions and makes ham radio more accessible for people with limited time, space, or equipment.

And technically speaking, FT8 has some limitations. The 13-character message size means there's no room for





casual chat or personal messages. It's not suitable for traffic handling, nets, or long-form communication. And because the signals can be weak, you often can't hear them—everything happens visually on the screen. But for rapid contacts, DX chasing, or operating under marginal band conditions, FT8 is hard to beat.

And while we're at it, I want to make it clear that FT8 is a "Low Signal Mode" and not necessarily a "Low Power Mode". This gets tossed around on the internet like gospel, when in fact sometimes it takes more than just a few watts to make a QSO complete. Sure—start at a few watts but if the other station isn't coming back to you, don't be afraid to turn it up. And if he still doesn't come back, turn it up some more! It's not uncommon that as much as 80 to 100 watts might be required to complete a QSO. Possibly even *more*, depending on your antenna.

However, all that said—I've literally worked the world with 4 watts from a QRP Labs QDX transceiver, into a living room floor lamp for an antenna (see my article Lamp-tenna 2 in the [October issue](#) of the *Logger's Bark*).

It's worth noting that FT8's design isn't static. Since its release, there have been continuous improvements to WSJT-X and related software, as well as introductions of variations like FT4, which is even faster and more suited for contesting (although with a not-as-deep-decoding algorithm). These ongoing developments from Mr. Taylor and Mr. Franke (and the entire group of software developers they have worked with over

the years) keep the mode fresh and adaptable, ensuring it will remain a part of the amateur radio landscape for years to come.

I'm not here to proselytize anyone into becoming an FT8 operator. Far from it—that's not the job of an article like this. I merely wanted to explain in simple terms just what this mode is all about and a bit about what makes it tick.

I have been a long-time fan of CW (since I passed my Novice tests in December 1974), as well as SSB and numerous other ham radio modes over the years. While I do in fact use FT8 on a fairly regular basis, I don't consider it the be-all-end-all mode that some hams have made it out to be. But it has a great place in the wide range of interests that is ham radio today.

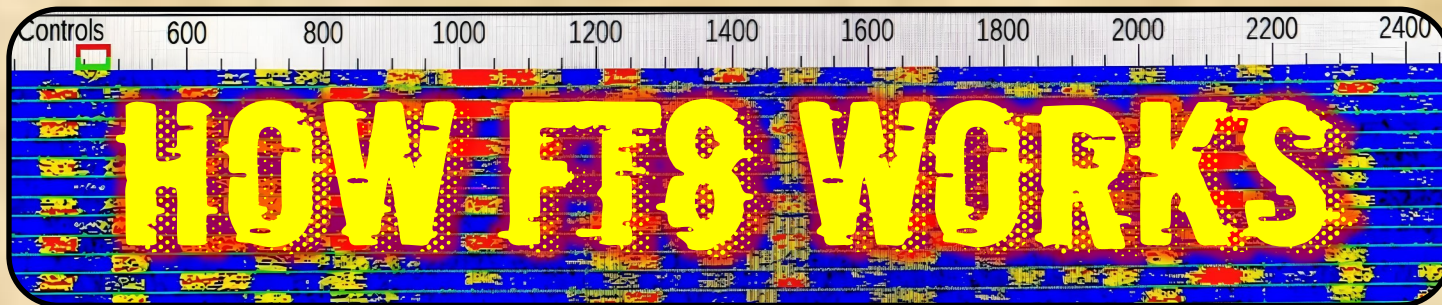
Just consider that FT8 is but one tool in your toolbelt, to be used when you choose (to snag some new rare DXpedition, for example) if you like. Carry on with your SSB nets and ragchewing, CW for POTA and SKCC activities, or whatever you find most enjoyable in the

WSJT-X can even mate up with your logging software to auto-log each contact. In this case, using N3FJP Amateur Contact Log—photo by Dave W7UUU

Rec#	Call	Date / Time	Band	Mode	Power	Snt	Rec	Off	Country
17886	WA0TTS	04/02/2022 22:52	20	SSB	75	59	59		USA

Call	Date	Band	Mode	Power	Time On	Sent	Rec	Country
WA0TTS	04/06/2025	20	FT8	1000	18:29	599	599	USA

Comments: HW-32A - MOGP - WATTS FAMILY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - 7912 MAPLE AVE - RAYTOWN, MO 64138



hobby. But FT8 is not the evil it's been portrayed as in so many internet forums. That's utter nonsense.

If you've never tried FT8, I suggest you visit a local ham who is proficient and have him show you the ropes. It may well be the "new thing" you've been looking for to reenergize your interest in amateur radio.

-Dave W7UUU

****In the interest of full disclosure**, and to answer some critics regarding FT8 being a "robot mode", there is at least one derivative branch of the mainstream WSJT-X software that in fact *does* allow "fully automated unattended operation" of FT8. There is no evidence I have seen that this "robot version" of the software is in any way approaching widespread use (and I hope it remains that way).

But regardless, for hams in the U.S., FCC Part 97 rules require the control operator to be present any time an amateur station is being used to transmit. So operating "robot software" *calling CQ and making contacts when the operator isn't present would be illegal for operators in the U.S.* This branch of the software in my opinion really goes against all that amateur radio stands for. I in no way condone such fully-automated operation and would never allow it in my own shack. I have no intent to share links or information about this software version, but I felt it important to at least mention it in this article. That software is NOT the original WSJT-X product in design or intent.

-Dave W7UUU

f



Above: Steve Franke K9AN Steve Franke, K9AN, was first licensed in 1971 and has previously held call signs WN9IIQ and WB9IIQ. An early and abiding fascination with radio science led him to a position as Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Illinois, from which he retired last year. He enjoys chasing DX, studying HF and VHF propagation, and playing with radio-frequency circuits and antennas.

8

Below: Joe Taylor, K1JT, is Professor of Physics, Emeritus, at Princeton University. Steered into science by a boyhood fascination with radio and electronics, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1993 for discovery of the first orbiting pulsar. Since retirement he has kept busy developing and using digital protocols for weak-signal communication by Amateur Radio.

t



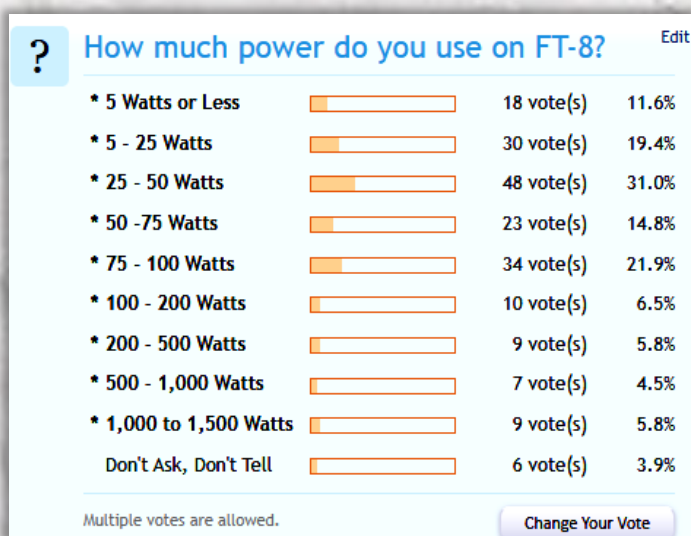
STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!



W7UUU

Survey Center!



TOTALLY UNSCIENTIFIC POLL of QRZ users who chose to vote...

"How much power do you use on FT8?". Many hams repeat the erroneous mantra that "FT8 is a low power mode". That's not correct! FT8 is a "low signal mode" - meaning that the WSJT-X software that runs FT8 is able to decode signals that are as quiet as 24 dB below the noise floor. There is no direct and automatic connection to how much power is being used on the transmitting side of the QSO, however. Sure, many times 5 watts or less will do the job—but other times, even legal limit into a great antenna may not be enough to rise above -24 dB and decode on the far end!

But it's important to remember FCC rules Part 97 § 97.313(a), which states: "An amateur station must use the minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communications." So it's best practice when using FT8 to start with a low power level until you find a station that cannot pull you out. Only then try raising your power incrementally until the contact can be accomplished. And never "overdrive" your transceiver or linear amplifier under *any* circumstances.

-Dave W7UUU

QSL Card of the Month



Portrait is Cuban hero, José Martí, on a 2009 pocket calendar

THIS MONTH'S QSL is actually an SWL (Shortwave Listener) QSL card from Radio Habana, Cuba that I received in March 2009. I was a long-time listener of the various amateur radio-related programs hosted by world-renown ham radio operator and Radio Habana host, Arnie Coro **CO2KK** (SK). He was always fun to listen to, covering all aspects of amateur radio from a Cuban perspective, with a number of great programs every week.

That year, he and I became pen pals of sorts, exchanging emails regarding a 20-meter QRP transmitter he was working on. He had a lot of trouble sourcing parts, and it wasn't legal for him to have me send parts he needed. So we worked with a mutual ham radio friend in Canada to whom I would send the parts, then he would subsequently send them on to Arnie (Canada isn't part of the decades-old Cuban embargo).

The night he mentioned my name and call (**WB7AWK** back then) on his radio program, I sent for a QSL card and he personally addressed one back to me, complete with a manually typed envelope! Sadly Arnie passed away at age 80 in 2023.

-Dave W7UUU



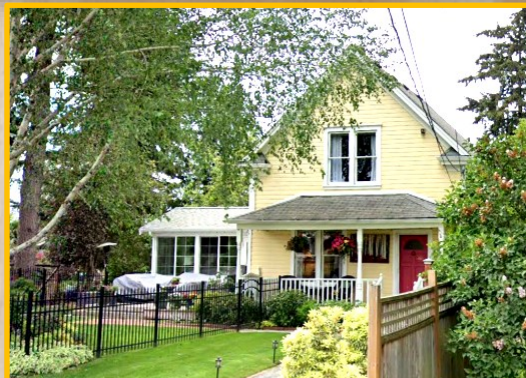
W9EVT (SK)



7EK Clifford Johnson

This is the amazing 1921 shack of Radio Club of Tacoma Charter Member, Clifford Johnson. He was member #11 of the club, having joined in the earliest days. Very little is known about him or his later amateur radio activities. But what is known is he lived in this tidy little house in North Tacoma, at 1008 North Adams Street which still stands today (Google photo on the right). If anyone has any further information on Mr. Johnson by all means shoot me an email.

-Dave W7UUU



W7OS DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

Featured Gear from the Museum

Photos & Text by Dave W7UUU



THIS MONTH'S DOC SPIKE MUSEUM FEATURE is one of the real icons of 1960s ham radio “Novice Class rig culture”. It’s the Knight Kit T-60 CW and AM transmitter. First offered for sale in kit form in 1963, it was an improved version of the earlier T-50. Designed for 80 through 6 meters, the T-60 used a 6FH8 oscillator / buffer feeding a 6DQ6B “sweep tube” final. For AM operation, the very common 12AX7 was the speech amplifier, driving a 6DR7 audio driver to provide controlled-carrier AM modulation.

The ads listed the T-60 as producing “60 watts CW/Peak AM on 80-10, less on 6”. This of course was input power—actual RF output power ranges from 30 to 40 watts depending on the crystal (or VFO) used, with quite a bit less out on 6-meters.

The front panel meter didn’t have the typical plate or current ranges—rather just a simple 2-level RF output meter. You would adjust the

Plate, Load, and Drive Tune controls for maximum output rather than “dipping the plate”.

The T-60 debuted in 1963 with a price tag of \$49.95 (\$521 in today’s dollars) but the next year, it rose to \$54.95, and ultimately to

\$59.95 by 1967.

Knight offered a nice matching receiver—the R-55A about the same time, with a

price ranging from \$59.95 (\$625 today) to \$64.95 in 1967. Around the time both products were being phased out, they went on sale at \$46.50 for the T-60 and \$54.95 for the R-55A. When the 1968 Allied catalogs came out, both rigs were no longer offered for sale.

The transmitter featured in this article is part of the W7OS Museum collection, and comes alive a few times a year as part of either Straight Key Night, Novice Rig Roundup, or Classic exchange. With good crystals, power output is decent and chirp is reasonably under control.



Photo by Dave W7UUU

ANTENNA TIME

Lamptenna 3: CQ WPX with SSB

Dave W7UUU

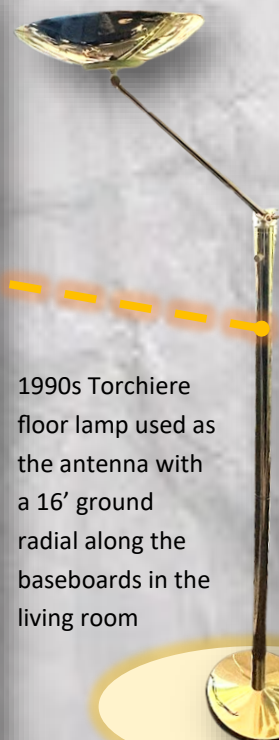


THIS IS THE THIRD INSTALLMENT IN MY LAMPTENNA series of articles, and will be the last. This time, I assessed the possibilities of using my 1990s Torchiere floor lamp antenna in a major SSB (Single-sideband voice) contest, the CQ WPX—World Prefix contest. This is an event where contestants work every station possible in the world, with call sign prefixes providing score multipliers. Every contact you make is a point, and every new prefix multiplies your total count. If you make 100 contacts with 50 prefixes, your point score is 5000 and so on. It's a fast-paced global contest—a great way for newer hams to work states and countries towards operating awards of all types.

In my two previous Lamptenna projects (documented in *Logger's Bark* [October 2024—FT8](#) and [February 2025—CW](#)), I worked strictly QRP power levels. This was not only for safety (sitting in my easy chair only 24 inches from the lamp antenna) but for computer stability during the first event which was on FT8. Even running a mere 4 watts

caused issues with the computer used for the WSJT-X software. For the second Lamptenna event, I ran CW but still kept it at QRP levels since I was operating from the same chair really close to the antenna.

But for this third and final test, I wanted to run SSB and I deemed that even 10w QRP power with such a steeply compromised antenna was asking too much. So instead of using my Icom IC-705 again, I went with my POTA rig, an Icom IC-7300 running 100 watts. Nothing changed with the antenna—brass-plated aluminum tubes on a heavy steel base, with full continuity of the entire assembly top to bottom. There is a screw in the base for attaching the main antenna wire. I use a small breakout box for the coax (with no balun!) and have a 16-foot single radial wire that just lays on the floor along the baseboard. This is the same setup I've used since the first Lamptenna experiment back in September.



1990s Torchiere floor lamp used as the antenna with a 16' ground radial along the baseboards in the living room

ANTENNA TIME

Lamptenna 3: CQ WPX with SSB

Dave W7UUU



But the one big difference: RF power rating of 100 watts. I don't consider it wise to be seated 24" from an HF antenna running that level of power. So for Lamptenna 3, I opted to locate the IC-7300 some 25 feet away on the dining room table. This provided more than ample separation (as verified using the [ARRL RF Exposure Calculator](#)) on all the bands I would be operating (all below 29 MHz).

Once I was all set up and running, I spent some time tuning the bands from 10 down to 80, and making sure the LDG Z-11Pro antenna tuner (which I use for my POTA activations) was up to the challenge of matching the lamp to the radio. For all the upper bands it worked great. The only band that was a clear no-go was 80-meters. (But in the end, I never made more than one contact on 40 so 80 was never a practical consideration).

Once I started operating the contest, I knew my best shots at contacts were going to be the "big guns" - the loudest stations I could hear. In the first hour, I took a few jaunts out to my main shack just to judge conditions on the FTDX-101MP and SteppIR DB18E Yagi at 70 feet. That gave me a very clear indication of where I stood with the Lamptenna vs. a top-performance antenna like the SteppIR. But overall, I was pretty pleased with what I was able to pull out despite the extreme limitations of an antenna like this.

While slow to build, my QSO count was steady and quite predictable: If I could hear them loud and clear with a true 5 by 9 signal, I stood a very good chance of being heard by them. This was borne out again and again, with a few notable exceptions where a very strong station in say Belize or Curacao never could hear me. I would guess that in at least some cases, those stations are "alligators" - all mouth and no ears, as the saying goes—hams with big amplifiers and penetrating audio feeding into lackluster antennas that could just not pull me out.

But those I found to be exceptions among the strong sta-

tions I was hearing. In most cases, if they were really strong I had little trouble working them myself.

As with Lamptenna 1 and Lamptenna 2, I noticed that when using such a dramatically limited antenna as this, that the



The Lamptenna antenna as it's set up. If you look closely you will see the small silver screw in the brass base to which the black antenna wire attaches.

ANTENNA TIME

Lamptenna 3: CQ WPX with SSB

Dave W7UUU



slightest variations in propagation would become immediately apparent. By that I mean if a station is just below the threshold of pulling you out, wait 5 minutes and try again. In that short time, conditions can change just enough to make the contact possible. With really good antennas, in my experience, it's not quite so obvious and profound an effect.

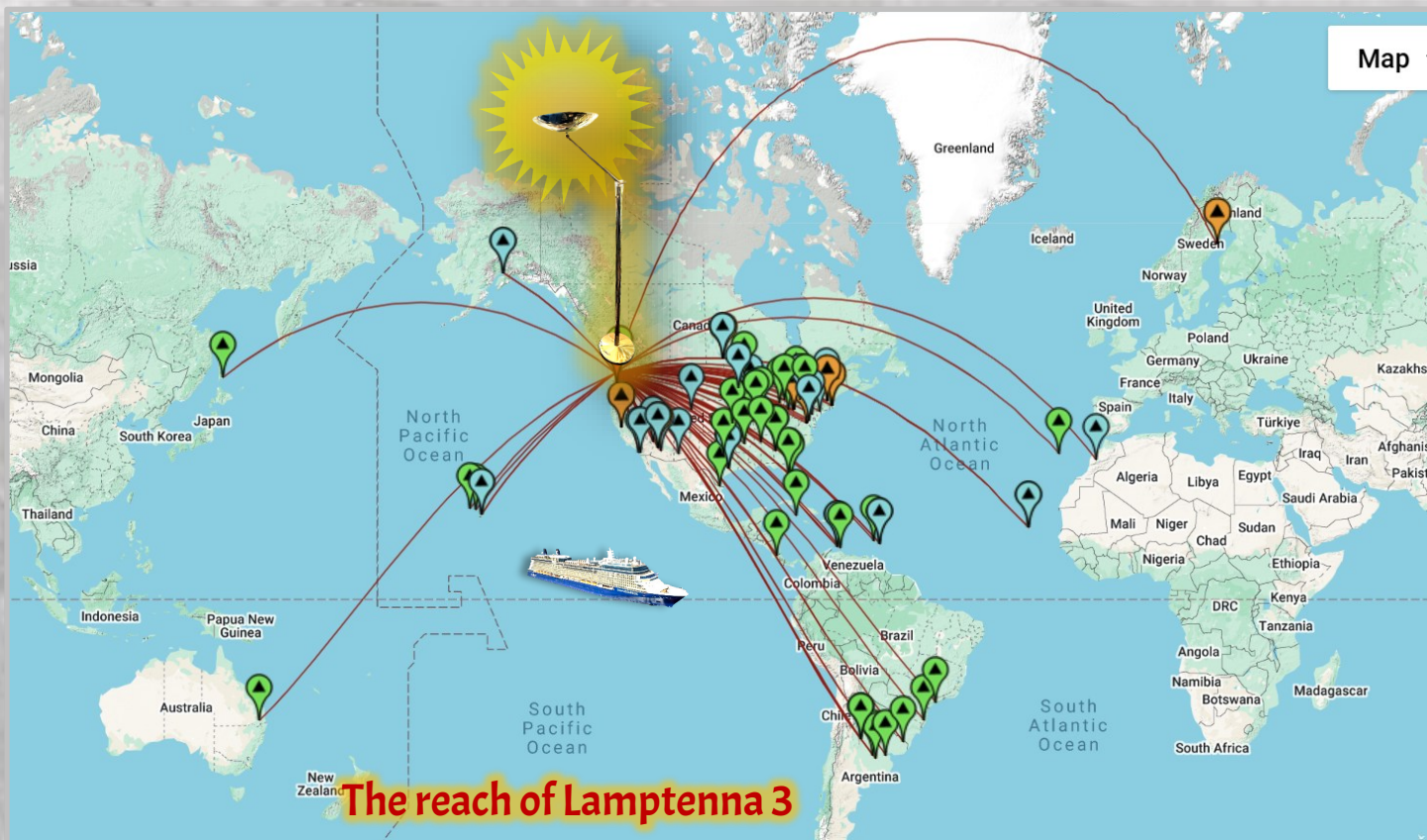
When using a very limited antenna like Lamptenna, I find that if I work one station in Florida, chances are very good the next few stations will also be in Florida or very near. And sure enough, that's how it played out. I would work three Florida stations in a row. Then three or four in Texas. Later in the day on 10-meters, I worked three Hawaii stations back to back. Highly compromised antennas will often show you EXACTLY where they are working in this way. My view is they are so limited that when they work,

they tend to just work into one geographical area, then things shift and another area is favored.

This is clearly evident in the QSO map of my efforts shown below. You can see the patterns—the regions where propagation was favored when using such an extremely limited antenna.

Of course, it cannot be overstated that at the time of this Lamptenna event, as well as the previous two, we are at the peak of a pretty good solar cycle. As you can see from the contest log summary, 53% of my contacts were on 10 meters and 36% were on 15. At the bottom of any sun-spot cycle, I can without hesitation say that my performance (especially using SSB) on these bands would be all but nonexistent. Propagation played a huge hand in how these Lamptenna events worked out.

So in the end, it turned out that the SSB event was pretty



ANTENNA TIME

Lamptenna 3: CQ WPX with SSB

Dave W7UUU

successful after all—garnering only 83 contacts (during about 6 hours total operating time) but with that came 25 states (including Hawaii and Alaska), and 19 total countries. Australia, island nations off NW Africa, and Sweden all surprised me! I never expected that I would work all six continents (excepting of course the big icy one at the bottom, but Antarctica isn't required for Worked All Continents) and 15 CQ zones with such a limited antenna.

I hope these events give hope to those looking at options for very limited space antennas. I intentionally chose the most miserable option I had available. But there are many far better indoor antenna choices to be had—and surely one of them may well end up working out for you.

-Dave W7UUU

W7UUU's Contest Summary Report for CQ-WPX
Created by N3FJP's CQ WPX Contest Log
Version 4.9.9 www.n3fjp.com

Total Contacts = 83
Total Points = 9,042

Operating Period: 2025/03/29 00:15 - 2025/03/30 20:24

Total op time (breaks > 30 min deducted): 6:24:16
Total op time (breaks > 60 min deducted): 6:55:26

Avg Qs/Hr (breaks > 30 min deducted): 13.0

Total Contacts by Band and Mode:

Band	CW	Phone	Dig	Total	%
40	0	1	0	1	1
20	0	8	0	8	10
15	0	30	0	30	36
10	0	44	0	44	53
Total	0	83	0	83	100

View Map		States		Cont		CQ Zns	
Worked	25	Rem	25	Worked	6	Worked	15
AK		AL		AF		01	
AR		CO		AS		03	
AZ		CT		EU		04	
CA		DE		NA		05	
FL		IA		OC		07	
GA		ID		SA		08	
HI		IN				09	
IL		KY				11	
KS		LA				13	
MA		ME				14	
MD		MO				19	

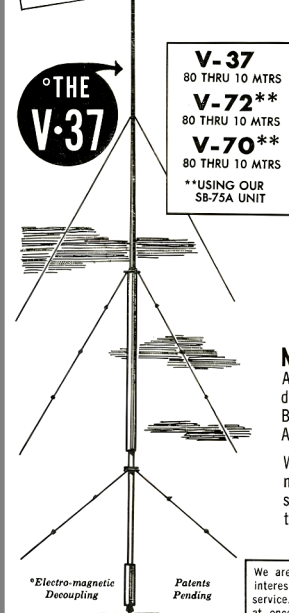
ANTENNA QUACKERY HAS BEEN AROUND almost as long as ham radio has been around. The mid-to-late 1950s seems to have been the heyday of antenna claims from the sublime to the ridiculous. "The ROBOT ANTENNA OF TOMORROW is yours today!" this ad exclaims, for what appears to be a fairly mundane trap vertical. But they would just work in the amazing DX that can be had... "One ham in Oklahoma mounted his V37 on his roof and worked 2-G's, 1-ZS2, 2-ZS3's, 3-VK5's, and 1-ZL all in one evening with 90 watts! I wonder why they're no longer around selling antennas these days!

-Dave W7UUU

Your Rig is only as effective as the Antenna you tie it to!

Now...yes!...NOW! THE **ROBOT ANTENNA OF TOMORROW** IS YOURS **TODAY!**

• This New, All-band Antenna, precision-manufactured by **ANTENNA ENGINEERING COMPANY**, does exactly what has long been considered a virtual IMPOSSIBILITY.



For **EFFICIENCY**
that will Thrill the Old-Timer...

For the **ADVANCED PERFORMANCE**
so VITALLY necessary to the New Ham using flea-power...

For **CONVENIENCE** and **MINIMUM POWER-LOSS!**
Take YOUR choice of the three available A.E.C. Sky-hooks — (V-37, V-72, V-70) — either DeLuxe or Standard models. Prices start at \$99.00

REMEMBER, there is **NO OTHER** antenna using our Electro-Magnetic Decoupling* principle. It's **NEW!** It's **ALL-BAND**, with **AUTOMATIC IMPEDANCE MATCHING ON ALL BANDS!** One ham in Oklahoma mounted his V-37 on his roof, using ground-plane radials and on 80 c.w. worked 2-G's, 1-ZS2, 2-ZS3's (!!) 3-VK5's, 1-ZL in ONE EVENING. His power **INPUT? NINETY WATTS!**

NOVICES! Your Antenna is MOST IMPORTANT! If your ANTENNA is RIGHT, it makes NO DIFFERENCE HOW many different Finals you'll hook to it. They'll ALL give you their BEST! But a MAKESHIFT antenna is a FOUL BALL! BUY your Antenna and KNOW you're in business!

We don't WANT you to buy our antennas if we feel they will not produce the BEST for you at your location! So send a sketch of your location. Write for literature and ask for time payment plan.

We are seeking alert amateurs who own our antennas to tell our story to other interested amateurs in their own communities and we expect to pay well for this service. It can be a profitable part-time occupation for you. Communicate with us at once for the very interesting and important details we have for you as our sales-representative.

ANTENNA ENGINEERING COMPANY
5021 WEST EXPOSITION BLVD., LOS ANGELES 16, CALIF.
TELEPHONE: REpublic 4-7807



10 Most Popular HF Ham Radio Awards

Upcoming Ham Fests in the Area

OK so here we have the ten *most popular* awards sought by hams in the U.S. and to some degree abroad (sorry but there are THOUSANDS of ham radio awards so I had to search the most popular based on our majority readership here in the U.S.). Order is based on how *popular* the award is factored in with how difficult to achieve (which affects popularity) using my own "Top Secret" analysis algorithm.

Your mileage may vary! -Dave W7UUU

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Worked All States W.A.S. |
| 2 | Worked All Continents |
| 3 | DXCC — 100 Countries |
| 4 | 5-Band W.A.S. |
| 5 | Worked All 40 Zones |
| 6 | 5-Band DXCC |
| 7 | 9-Band W.A.S. |
| 8 | W.A.S. Triple-Play |
| 9 | Worked All U.S. Grids |
| 10 | Worked All U.S. Counties |

Data published with permission from [Lynn at N7CFO.com](https://www.lynnatn7cfo.com)

May 3 Quesnel Ham and Vintage Radio Swap Meet. Quesnel BC. https://hambone.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event_ID=2415

May 3 Star/GMRS Swapmeet. Star Riverwalk Park, 979 S. Main St. Star ID <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGKLuWh8T9Y6FpXiDPgX6lZHRFlzzH64WuVvVXGXWD6AFgOg/viewform?pli=1>

May 4 Spring Swap Meet. Pitt Meadows, BC. https://hambone.ca/rac/events/detail.php?event_ID=2408

May 10 Stanwood Camano ARC 32nd Annual Electronic Flea Market and Hamfest. Stanwood, WA. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* https://scarcwa.org/ham_fest.shtm . [Flyer in PDF.](#)

May 30, 31 and June 1 SEA-PAC Hamfest and ARRL Northwestern Division Convention. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* info@seapac.org . www.seapac.org/ . [November edition of SeaPac Waves.](#) [February edition of SeaPac Waves.](#) [March edition of SeaPac Waves.](#)

June 6, 7, & 8 Wenatchee Apple City ARC Hamfest, Dryden, WA. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* <https://www.applecityarc.com/> [Flyer in PDF.](#) [Driving instructions and map.](#)

June 14 Port Ludlow ARC Tail Gate Swapmeet. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* <https://www.n7pl.org/>

June 14 Inland Empire VHF Radio Amateurs Second Annual Swapmeet, Spokane, WA. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* [Flyer in PDF.](#)

July 18-20 Glacier Waterton Hamfest. East Glacier, Montana. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* <https://www.gwhamfest.org/>



Radio Club of Tacoma Ham Fair 1970

HAM TECH 101

By Jim AF5NP

Useful tech info for newer hams and old

RF Connectors

This column is reprinted monthly with permission of
AF5NP from his blog www.NEWHAMS.info

RF Connector Types

The plug that is used for terminating cables between the receiver, transmitter or transceiver and the antenna is generally referred to as the RF connector because it carries the **R**adio **F**requency signal to/from the equipment.

In addition to mating the radio to the antenna via a transmission line (usually a coaxial cable) it may also be used on RF test equipment (antenna analyzer, power and SWR meters, spectrum analyzer) and dummy loads. All hams should be familiar with different RF connectors so we'll give a brief high-level description here.

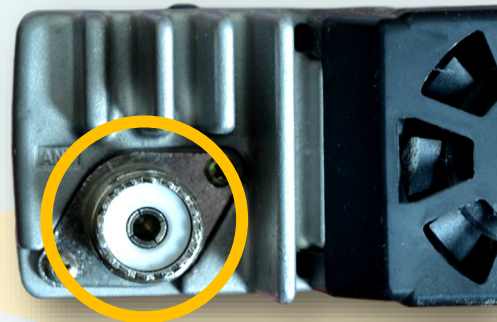
Good news! There are only four common types of RF connector used in ham radio:

PL-259



By far the most common RF connector, the PL-259 is used to connect most all modern HF transceivers and VHF/UHF mobile rigs to the antenna. The PL designation stands for plug and the 259 is an old U.S. Signal Corps assignment. It has a male center pin and female thread. Most modern HF transceivers mate to this type of connector.

T9B07-2014: Which of the following is true of PL-259 type coax connectors?
They are commonly used at HF frequencies



The mating receptacle found on the radios and equipment is known as a SO-239. SO for socket, it features a female center receptacle and has male threads.

The PL-259 and SO-239 combination ([details here](#)) is frequently referred to as a "UHF connector" although this designation comes from the 1930s when UHF was considered anything above 30MHz. It has performance limitations above 100MHz so other connector types are more suitable for true UHF use.

2015-G6B13: Which of these connector types is commonly used for RF connections at frequencies up to 150 MHz?
PL-259

N-Type



Physically similar to the PL-259/SO-239 pair, the N connector can handle high power levels above 300MHz and is commonly found on UHF radios and test equipment ([details here](#)).

Be aware that there are 50Ω and 75Ω versions available and the two should not be mixed.

HAM TECH 101

Useful tech info for newer hams and old

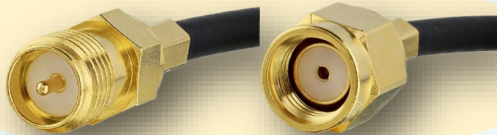
Other Resources for New Hams

BNC



The BNC ([Bayonet Neill–Concelman](#)) is a miniature quarter-turn coaxial cable connector. Its small size makes it suitable for smaller, lower-power radios and it can handle RF up to microwave frequencies. It is less common on modern transceivers but can still be found on older handhelds radios (HTs). ([details here](#))

SMA



The SMA (Sub-miniature version A) connector supports RF up to microwave frequencies but due to its small size it has limited power-handling capability. For this reason it is commonly found on HTs and other low-power radio gear. You will also see them on Wi-Fi routers and such equipment. Note that there is a reverse-gender version of the SMA and this is found mainly on some cheap Chinese HTs (many models of Baofeng, Wouxun, etc.).

2015-G6B18: What is a type SMA connector?
A small threaded connector suitable for signals up to several GHz

With all these coaxial cable RF connector types you can buy pre-made cables or save money by building your own (DIY). When fabricating your own cables, consider coax size and characteristics. The RF connector will always have different versions to accommodate varying cable diameter.

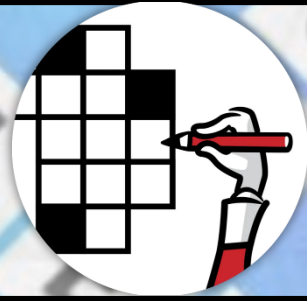
-Jim AF5NP

FIFTEEN OF THE MOST COMMONLY USED Q-CODES in order of popularity. With a question mark after (QSL?) it's a question. Without the question mark, it's a statement (QSL). Handy list for new hams—print it, cut it out, and hang it by your operating position.

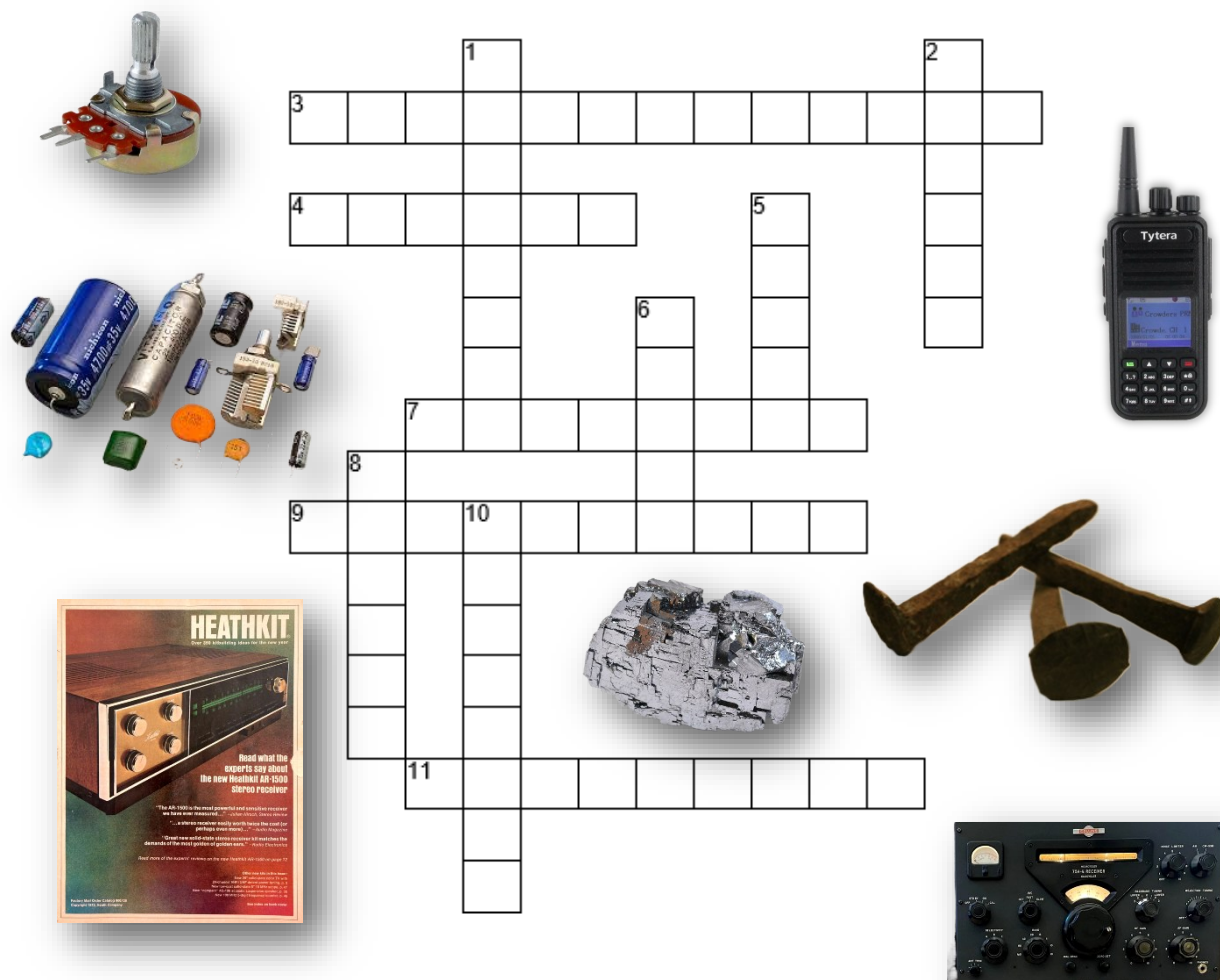
Q-Code	Meaning
QSL	Can you acknowledge receipt? (Confirmation of communication or receipt of a QSL card.)
QSO	Can you communicate with ... direct or by relay? (Radio contact or conversation.)
QTH	What is your location? (My location is ...)
QRM	Is my transmission being interfered with? (Interference from other stations.)
QRZ	Who is calling me?
QRL	Are you busy? (The frequency is busy; do not interfere.)
QRV	Are you ready? (I am ready.)
QRX	When will you call me again? (Stand by; I will call again later.)
QRT	Shall I cease or suspend operation? (Stop transmitting.)
QRP	Shall I decrease transmit power? (Use low power.)
QRO	Shall I increase transmit power? (Use high power.)
QRN	Are you troubled by static noise? (I am troubled by static noise.)
QSY	Shall I change transmission frequency? (Change to another frequency.)
QSB	Are my signals fading? (Signal strength varies.)
QSK	Can you hear me between your signals, and can I break in on your transmission?

FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



Crossword Challenge! Print this page to play!



Across

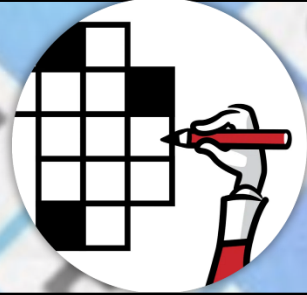
3. Another name for a variable resistor
 4. A metal that was frequently used for a detector
 7. If you were a 75A-4 what kind of rig would you be?
 9. A guy named Oscar made some great receivers
 11. Another name for a capacitor

Down

1. The antenna type that you could drink
 2. Heathkit company was based in _____ harbor
 5. The last name of the W7OS radio museum call sign
 6. Another name for antenna
 8. The first name of the guy that Alfred Vail worked for
 10. TYT radios copied much of the software from American radio company

FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



Answer Key... but don't cheat!

Across

3. P O T E N T I O M E T E R

4. G A L E N A

7. R E C E I V E R

9. H A M M A R L U N D

11. C O N D E N S E R

Down

1. B

2. B

5. S P I K

6. A R K

8. S A

10. M A R L U N D

Across

3. Another name for a variable resistor
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CLOSING REMARKS

JOIN NOW!



W7DK

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Logger's Bark is the official publication of the Radio Club of Tacoma and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law. All proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

EMAILING OFFICERS

To contact any club officer, simply send an email to their call sign @W7DK.org

CONTRIBUTIONS OF ARTICLES & PHOTOS

We WELCOME contributions of articles, guest editorials, blurbs, Hints-and-Kinks, shack photos, QSL cards, memorable contacts, anything of interest to your fellow members. Submit your materials via email to: loggersbark@gmail.com or via US mail to PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411 Nichrome

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA REPEATERS

Central Tacoma 2m: 147.28 + PL Tone 103.5
Central Tacoma 70cm: 440.625 + PL Tone 103.5
Crawford Mountain: 147.380 + PL Tone 103.5
North Tacoma: 145.21 - PL Tone 141.3

The Loggers Bark **does not** accept AI / ChatGPT submissions

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- [Full-time students](#), licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$20 per year.
- Fees are applicable for the calendar year: January to December
- Lifetime [membership](#) is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime [memberships](#) are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.
- Visit www.w7dk.org For the latest and most current information on events and activities

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
CLICK HERE!

HAVE A SUBMISSION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

loggersbark@W7DK.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Radio Club of Tacoma Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 5th, 2025

Meeting called to order at _____ 1900 _____.

Officers and Directors Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
<input type="checkbox"/> V. President	Manny Adonis AD7MA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treasurer	Doug Schafer AB7DG (Temp)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board	Dan Vacanti KD7SV
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board	Dave Ashley W7GEL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

NOTE: These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum? 5 of 9 Officers / Directors needed. ___ Yes ___

Motion for approval of Minutes as previously distributed: Motion made by: Gary WG7X, Mike W7MKE seconded, Motion carried.

Silent Key or Illness?

Bruce Hanson WE7P has fallen and is stuck in bed with a bum knee, but he is recovering.

Presidents' updates:

See new business.

Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

Nothing of note this month. Secretary Gary was out of town for almost half of the month. The secretary will also be missing the March 8th general meeting because of the M&K Swap meet. Will need a substitute. Mike W7MKE volunteered to take notes. There hasn't been a lot of correspondence in the mail either. A slow month...



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Treasurer's Report (Doug Schafer as Temporary Treasurer)

See attached / included reports. Doug reports that he is using the new program "Money Minder" to generate the attached reports. Doug is looking to gather information from the BOD on the amount and type of detail that we want to include in the future reports.

Discussion ensued regarding the data in the reports and the forecasts from the prior year. Prez mentioned that the new program will help the BOD understand the treasurer's report in the future. President Adam will give his feedback on the "Money Minder" app and the reports during the next board meeting. Doug said that this program works well for our club, and he will be purchasing it for the club.

Committee Reports

Property Management (Red WB7EC)

Property Management team requests permission from the Board of Directors of the Radio Club of Tacoma to dispose/recycle the following excess items from the PMT list for March 2025. Motion made by President Adam to allow this disposal, Seconded by Secretary Gary.

\$1,571 was taken in last month during normal business / PMT sales.

1. RCT 4399 ATLAS HF XCVR 350 XL SN: M & K
2. RCT 4400 ATLAS 350 Power Supply SN: M & K
3. RCT 4401 Kenwood HF XCVR TS-520S SN: M & K
4. RCT 4402 Trio Antenna Tuner AT-200 SN: M & K
5. RCT 4403 Heathkit Remote VFO SB-644 MUSEUM
6. RCT 4404 Icom All Mode 50 MHZ XCVR SN: M & K
7. RCT 4405 Elecraft Audio Filter AF-1 MUSEUM

Facilities Management (Adam W2NCC)

HF committee wants to remove one of the trees in the SE corner of the property. Mike and Al have gotten professional "tree guys" to do the work. President Adam authorized the work party to go ahead and do the work. See "new business" for further info.

Paper towels for the clubhouse? Mike W7MKE provided us with info considering a different method of Providing paper towels in the restroom. A dispenser and multi-fold paper towels are considered. Mike W7MKE made a motion to acquire new two fan fold dispensers for the bathrooms and supplies. The amount considered is less than \$200. Motion seconded by Secretary Gary. Motion carried.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

General Meeting (Dave W7UUU)

Given that the General Meeting is on "Mike and Key day", Dave expects that the turnout will be very likely light at the meeting. The March program will be another "Living Histories" video. Featured this month will be the one about Stephen Morton.

HF Operations(Phil K7PIA)

Phil, K7PIA mentions that all equipment is operational. Flex 6400M is undergoing evaluation and repair. Phil also discussed the VHF/ UHF equipment. CQWPX contest will be held at the end of the month using the club station and the secretaries' interesting call sign. (WG7X) A team is in the process of being assembled for this event.

Info Tech and Website (Randy WB4SPB)

All systems are nominal.

Library (Doug AD7AV)

Library notice: All volumes of our bound BARKs are now searchable by word at the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications. See them here: <https://archive.org/search?query=Loggers+Bark&sort=-adddate&and%5B%5D=mediatype%3A%22texts%22> or search Wayback Machine for Loggers BARK. This URL above is also on the website under the Newsletter tab. There are some issues with the left margins, but they are entirely readable.

Membership (Mike W7XH)

Mike W7XH reports 361 members now in the club. Mike reported processing a new lifetime membership this month for a member in Port Gamble.

Museum (Dan KD7SV)

Dan reports working on some of the receivers in the museum; they're updating the power cords for three-wire safety. We are still looking for a GFI receptacle. Dan reports that an S-38 was supposed to be donated, but Dan said that the receiver was below the quality necessary to display in the museum.

Dan recently got an oscillodyne artifact in the museum, it is a 1914 receiver, and it is reportedly cool, pix to follow.

Planning Committee (Manny AD7MA)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

No report.

POTA (BJ KO7T)

POTA next Sunday the 16th Dash Point. Next POTA on April 13th at Lake Sammamish. BJ is working on laminated cards that will assist operators in setting up and operating their POTA stations and getting registered as a POTA operator.

Repeater Ops (AL N7OMS)

BJ reports that the number of usual of participants on the Tuesday night net is around a dozen. Interest is building a for a noontime net on the two-meter repeater.

Al reports that Bob AD7LJ is proceeding with the installation of the new repeater. Crawford machine needs attention. All the other machines are operational.

All systems are kind of nominal.

Training (Stephan AD7AB)

Class this weekend 8-9 March 2025

Tower (Nick K7MO)

Tower operations normal

VE (John AC7WW)

John has retired; Stephan is the new replacement.

Wednesday Workshop (Randy WB4SPB)

Eight people built a 9:1 transformer that were a part of the 4th Wednesday activities night. Randy also built one and tested it, it worked fine. All Parts supplied by Mike W7XH. Next month the folks will build a balun and put connectors on it.

Randy is going to step back from 4th Wednesday Activities after the March session. He would like for others to plan and execute 4WAN after that point. He would be glad to assist or participate in some fashion t/b/d.

Unfinished Business:



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

None reported

New Business:

These topics from the president:

General meeting attendance. Some folks have complained about low attendance at the general meeting.

Pres Mentions that we have lots of time before or after the meeting for socialization.

2026 projects and funding. Some committees are looking forward to the 2026 activities and fund raising.

President Adam mentioned several funding sources that we should be looking towards for funding

ARRL is \$3k or ARDC is also a source. Discussion continued on sources of revenue.

Eagles Club lease up for renewal in June. Adam will proceed with the renewal.

Mike, W7MKE asked the HF committee to consider the removal of one of the two Doug Fir trees at the SE corner of the RCT's property. This would allow the easier installation of a new WARC band dipole between the remaining tree and the cypress across the property.

Here is the proposal from the "Tree guy":

Hello, here are a couple prices for the tree removal,

Just to take the tree down and leave the branches and tree rounds, \$1000

To take the tree down and haul away the branches and tree rounds, \$1700

Please let me know what you would like to do, and I will see what weekend is best for me to get out there,

Thanks Nathaniel

Cell-253-691-9296

Email--lemka828@gmail.com

BJ discussed the after-action report for the Bigfoot event last year. He has also reserved the callsigns for this year's event.

Adjournment at: ____2029____

Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X

Attachments: Attendance sheets.

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA
ATTENDANCE SHEET

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting



W7DK

Board of Directors Meeting / Agenda
February 5th, 2025

	NAME	CALLSIG N	RCT NUM
	ATTENDED at Clubhouse	Only non-BOD members BOD at top of minutes.	Applies to Eagles and at clubhouse.
1	Al Ferguson	N7OMS	2107
2	David Stillwell	AC7KP	2073
	Attended via ZOOM		
1	BJ Rollison	KO7T	3001
2	Red Cranefield	WB7EC	2561
3	Dan Vacanti	KD7SV	2640
4	Phil Pia	K7PIA	2681
5	Randy Myers	WB4SPB	2050
6	Jeff Winget	W8NGS	3110
7	Dave Ellison	W7UUU	742



GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the December 2024 meeting



W7DK

Radio Club of Tacoma General Meeting Minutes

March 8th, 2025

Meeting called to order at 13:00

Officers and Directors Present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
<input type="checkbox"/>	V. President	Manny Adonis AD7MA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
<input type="checkbox"/>	Treasurer	Doug Schafer AB7DG (Temp)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Dan Vacanti KD7SV
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board	Dave Ashley W7GEL
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

NOTE: These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum? (10% of membership is needed to conduct business.) NO

Flag salute led by: Adam W2NCC

Visitors: No

New Members: No

Silent Key or Illness:

Thursday, March 7, 2025, our club trustee, longtime friend, mentor, and all around good fellow Nick Winter K7MO passed away. We all know him and he will be sorely missed...Service TBD. Dave W7UUU shared that his very first QSO was with Nick Winter WA7IVO (his old call).

Bruce Hanson WE7P is at home recovering from a fall that injured his knee and severely curtails his mobility.



GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the December 2024 meeting



W7DK

Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

Nothing of note this month. Secretary Gary was out of town for almost half of the month. The secretary will also be missing the March 8th general meeting because of the M&K Swap meet. Will need a substitute. Mike W7MKE volunteered to take notes. There hasn't been a lot of correspondence in the mail either. A slow month...

General Meeting Program (Dave W7UUU)

Dave W7UUU shared his living history of Steve Blacksten AD7VL. The Living History stories are found at [Dave's Radio Shack - YouTube](#)

Chair /Committee Reports:

VE: Stephen Morton AD7AB is the new VE coordinator.

Repeater: Bob AD7LJ picked up a new Yaesu Repeater DR 2X at M&K for an excellent price.

Membership:

Mike W7XGH reports membership is 361. Also, at M&K Jeff Smythe KB7QAG a former member renewed. Also one member joined from East Wenatchee after reading *The Logger's BARK* on QRZ.

Museum: Dan KD7SV picked up the donated Oscillodyne receiver.

Activity reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements:

POTA Next one is at Dash Point on the 16th. See W7DK.org for additional POTA information.

SES: BJ K07T is looking for call sign captains for the Bigfoot Event October 15-20th. Contact him at PO-TA@W7DK.org

Next 4th Wednesday: We will be building a choke balun. There is room for 8-10. Contact Randy WB4SPB: webmaster@W7DK.org

Door Prizes: Won by Paul W7PFU (ARRL Handbook) and David AC7KP (window sticker)

Adjournment at: 13:48

GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the December 2024 meeting



W7DK

Secretary pro tem, Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Attachments: Attendance sheet

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

ATTENDANCE SHEET

General Meeting Agenda / Minutes March 8th,
2025



GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the December 2024 meeting



W7DK

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA
ATTENDANCE SHEET
General Meeting Agenda / Minutes
March 8th, 2025

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	ATTENDED at Eagles	Only non-BOD members BOD at top of minutes.	Applies to Eagles and at clubhouse.
1	Leonard Burstiner	KA7NWF	2308
2	Mike Drorbaugh	W7MKE	2761
3	PAUL MATNEY	K7PFU	2546
4	ADAM BARBERA	W2NCC	2715
5	RANDY MYERS	WB4SPB	2050
6	WALT MOREY	WA7SDY	2763
7	DAVID STILLWELL	AC7KP	2073
8	DENNIS NELBACH	KJ7DDW	2866
9	MIKE ISAKSON	W7XH	2657
10	DAN VACANTI	KD7SV	2640
12	AL FERGUSON	N7OMS	2107
	ATTENDED VIA ZOOM		
13	DAVE ELLISON	W7UUU	742
14	RICHARD ? (I PHONE)		